

**Welcome
to Grace
Lutheran
Church!**



**To glorify God, to grow in faith,
to give in service, together in Christ**

GraceLutheranHatfield.org

December 31, 2023
The First Sunday of Christmas
9:15 a.m.

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor
Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus. We have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a Savior. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts!

*What sweeter music can we bring / than a carol for to sing / the birth of this, our Heavenly King?
 ...To do him honor, who's our King / and Lord of all this reveling.* (Robert Herrick)

PRELUDE

Carol selection, concluding with “Carol of the Birds,” below (all join in):

French carol Music, Nancy Raabe
PHILOMEL

1 Whence comes this rush of wings a - far,
 2 "Tell us, ye birds, why come ye here,
 3 Hark how the Green - finch bears his part,
 4 An - gels and shep - herds, birds of the sky,

5
 Fol - low - ing straight the No - ël star?
 In - to this sta - ble, poor and drear?"
 Phi - lo - mel, too, with ten - der heart,
 Come where the Son of God doth lie;

9
 Birds from the woods in won - drous flight,
 "Hast - 'ning we seek the new - born King,
 Chants from her leaf - y dark re - treat
 Christ on the earth with us doth dwell,

13
 Beth - le - hem seek this Ho - ly night.
 And all our sweet - est mu - sic bring."
Re, mi, fa, sol, in ac - cents sweet.
 Join in the shout, No - ël, No - ël!

GATHERING

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. At Grace Lutheran Church, we gather:

C. To glorify God, to grow in faith, to give in service, together in Christ.

HYMN: Let All Together Praise Our God, Stanzas 1-3

ELW 287

GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C. And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: All Glory Be to God on High

1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -
friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the
strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to
one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank
God for grace and mer - cy!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3



¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Word of God, Word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: Let All Together Praise Our God, Stanzas 4-6

ELW 287

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Word of God, Word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

The Gospel of the Lord, according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about

him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is

destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be

opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will

pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

CAROLS BY REQUEST

Please choose from the Christmas section of the hymnal, numbers 268-299.

We will close with ELW 291, “Let Our Gladness Have No End.”



PRAYERS

To the petition “Hear us, O God,” please respond, “Your mercy is great.”



LORD’S PRAYER

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

C. Our Father, who art in heaven....

GREETING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING *We rely on your gifts to sustain Grace and all its ministries. Please be generous – all that we do is possible only because of you.*

There are many ways to make your gift: Offerings may be placed in the plates at the sanctuary entrances; you may choose various forms of electronic giving by recurring credit card, using this QR code, or by direct deposit (ask Pastor Raabe for help with this).



OFFERING PRAYER

P. 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. **C. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P. The blessing of Almighty God, ✝ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **C. Amen.**

SENDING: The First Noel

ELW 300

DISMISSAL

P. Christ the Savior is born! Proclaim this good news. **C. Thanks be to God!**



POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY: THANK YOU!!

Preacher and Presider, Rev. Nancy M. Raabe
Minister of Music, Kevin Freaney
Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm
Lector: Frank Stone
Ushers: Kay Deussing, Kay Stone
Acolyte: Usher
Council Offering & Lockup:

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Genesis 1:1-5

God creates light

Psalm 29

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters

Acts 19:1-7

Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

Mark 1:4-11

Revelation of Christ as God's servant

COFFEE HOUR is served in **FELLOWSHIP HALL** each Sunday between our services. Please join us for coffee, tasty snacks and conversation. Also, the nursery is available for parents and children; please make use of the "Busy Bags" for young children.



Pastoral Care If you are ill, seeking pastoral care or need a helping hand for any reason, please contact Pastor Raabe through the office. Talk with her about prayer requests, illnesses, hospital stays, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and the joys in your life.

Save Paper! Early access! Receive your Parish News by email! Add your address to the list by contacting Lynn in the office.



Grace Lutheran Church

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