# December 24, 2025 Nativity of Our Lord 10:00am



#### **CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

- P In this time of celebration we remember that God loves you, all the time.
- C All the time God loves you.

Please stand as you are able.

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity + one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.
- C Amen.
- P Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

### Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Reconciling God,
- We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.

  We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear.

  We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

  Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.

  Amen.
- P God's grace upon grace flows over you.

  H Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

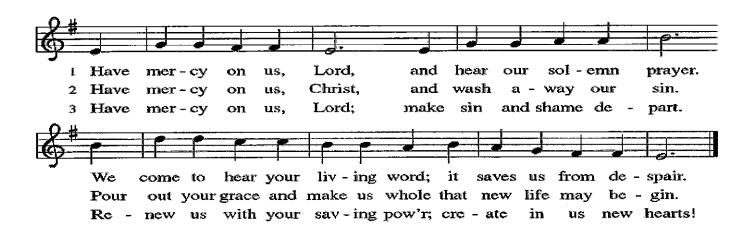
  Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
- C Amen.



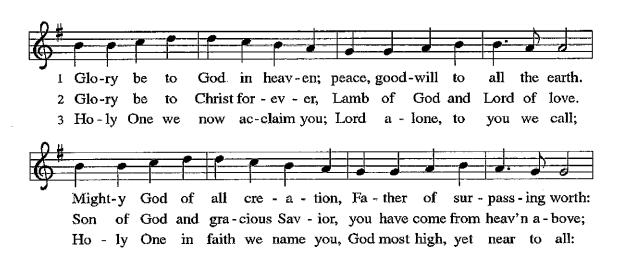
#### **GREETING**

- 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.

#### **KYRIE**



#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**





we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Almighty God, you made this holy day shine with the brightness of the true Light. rant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Please be seated.

#### FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALMODY: PSALM 96**

### read responsively

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.

<sup>9</sup>Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

<sup>12</sup>Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

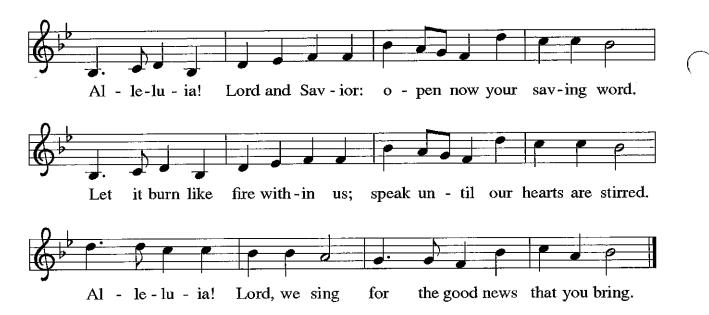
#### **SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>3</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPE\$L ACCLAMATION**



#### **GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-20**

- P The gospel according to Saint Luke, the second chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

half In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>Thi was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed ( what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her

heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

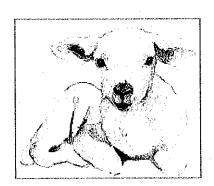
gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**MESSAGE** 



Please stand at the last verse.



#### THE NICENE CREED

us confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed
We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior **Amen.** 

#### **PEACE**

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always
- C and also with you.
- P Let us share God's peace.

All share a sign of peace and reconciliation.

Please be seated.

#### **OFFERING**

Thank you so much for your support of Grace ministry through your worship.

If you wish to make a donation to Grace, you can follow this link <a href="https://www.glcde.org">www.glcde.org</a> or scan the QR code to make a donation on our website through the GIVE button in the upper right corner.



You can also make a donation by placing your gift in our offering plates located inside both sanctuary doors.

**ANTHEM** 

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

Handel/Tomlin/ Cash/Gilder

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary

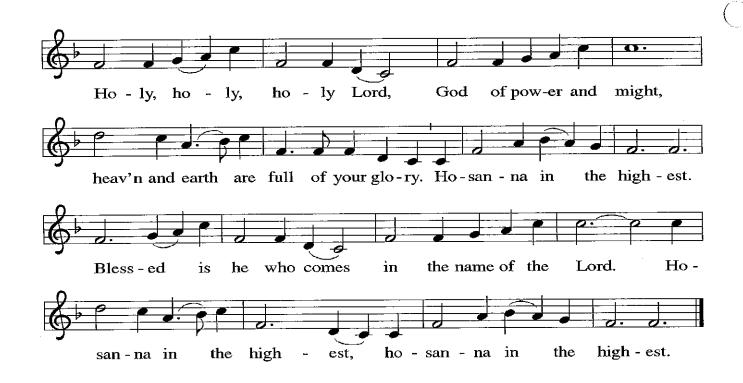


#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A God of glory,
  - great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.
  - Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

  In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
- C Come, Lord Jesus.
- P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

  Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

  Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C Come, Holy Spirit.
- P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

 $\mathbf{C}$ 

- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
  - Our Father in heaven,
    hallowed be your name,
    your kingdom come,
    your will be done,
    on earth as in heaven.
    Give us today our daily bread.
    Forgive us our sins
    as we forgive those
    who sin against us.
    Save us from the time of trial
    and deliver us from evil.
    For the kingdom, the power,
    and the glory are yours,
    now and forever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy!

All are welcome at the table of the Lord.

#### **COMMUNION**

Communion will be received at the head of the Sanctuary. Starting with the section closest to the sound room and worshippers may make their way to Pastor at the head of the Sanctuary and receive the communion elements. Elements at worship are red wine and white grape juice.

All bread used at communion is gluten-free.

#### LAMB OF GOD

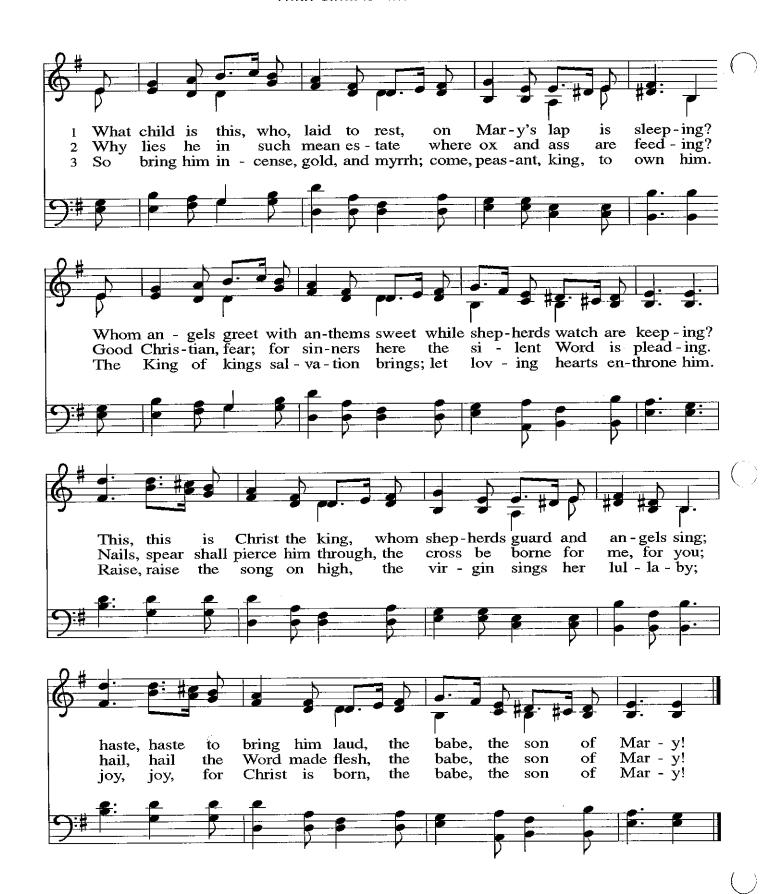


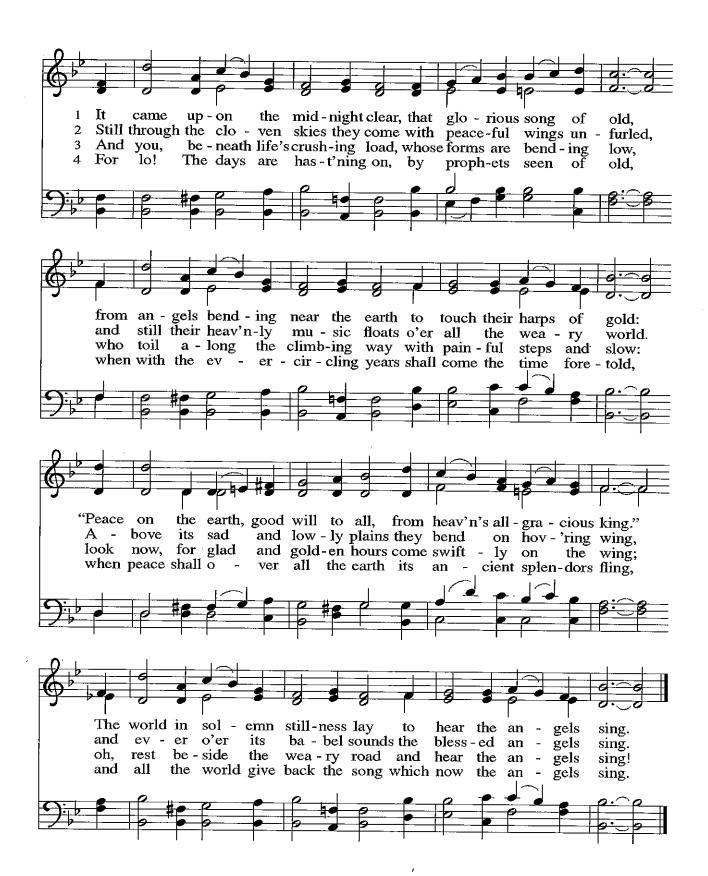
Please be seated.

# Once in Royal David's City

#### **ELW 269**







### Please stand as you are able.

# **COMMUNION BLESSING**

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

  May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence.

  Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.
- C Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

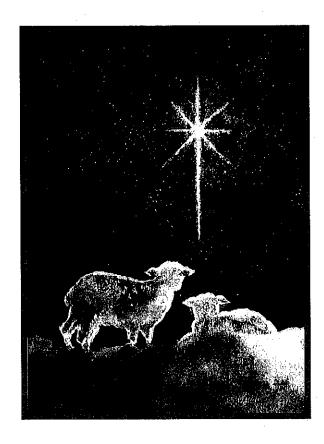
- P The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
- C Amen.



# **DISMISSAL**

- A Glory to God in the highest!
- C And peace to God's people on earth!
- A Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
- C Thanks be to God.





The chancel flowers and decorations are presented today to the glory of God

# **Worship Assistants**

Assisting Minister: Lynda Martinez

Greeter: Jeremy Magoon

Usher: Stacy Dambaugh, Tim Dambaugh

Reader: Jeremy Magoon Sound: Mark Maurer Streamer: Gerry Teig

#### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

2033 Graves Road, Hockessin, Delaware 19707 (302) 239-6481 office@glcde.org www.glcde.org A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# The people of Grace Lutheran Church, Ministers

The Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor Jordan Irazabal, Director of Music Susan Wells Allen, Office Manager Louis Jones, Custodian