



Grace Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 4, 2026
The 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Prelude

Joseph's Lullaby

Praise Team

Welcome and Announcements

The angel said to [the shepherds], “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

As we gather, we remember the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Confession and Forgiveness

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In ✚ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy! **Amen.**

Gathering Song *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* LBW 60

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!

Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Opening Prayer

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

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth,

you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—

a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.

Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. **Amen.**

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains

are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,

who announces salvation,

who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy,

for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹ Break forth; shout together for joy,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Song

Isn't He?

by John Wimber verse 1

VERSE 1

Isn't He beautiful, beautiful, isn't He,
Prince of Peace, Son of God, isn't He,
Isn't He wonderful, wonderful isn't He,
Counselor, Almighty God,
Isn't He, isn't He, isn't He, isn't He.

Hebrews 1:1-4

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as

much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Song

Isn't He?

by John Wimber verse 2

VERSE 2

Yes you are beautiful, beautiful, yes you are,
Prince of Peace, Son of God, yes you are,
Yes you are, wonderful yes you are, Counselor, Almighty God,
Yes you are, yes you are, yes you are, yes you are.

Matthew 2:1-11

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’^[b]”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and

said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

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

Song

Light of the Stable

Praise Team

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that

which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

Meditation

Song

Make Room

Praise Team

***Prayers**

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

As we end one year and begin another, assure us of your presence among us, Word made flesh, and guide us on right pathways.

Reveal yourself to us that we may bear your light to all the world.

***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.

Offering *Emmanuel* by Bob McGee

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.

Benediction *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* Praise Team

*Sending Song

Joy to the World

LBW 39



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Go in peace, filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Serving Sunday at Grace

Accompanist: Tisha Wilson

Worship Assistant: Dan Fiala

Ushers: Todd Kuxhausen

Camera: Ronny Petersen

Mevo: Andrea Francis

Acolyte: Gunnar Tullberg

In Our Prayers this Week:

Janet Sellentin

Debra Meyer

Dave Goudie

Shirley Flock

Barb Teutsch

Rachel Robbins

Garry Hansen

Donna Peterson

Holly Frye

Micah Sherwood

Kay Marik, friend of Dan Fiala

Patty Sass, sister of Nancy Petersen

Allen Maresh, son of Jerry Maresh

Jerry Maresh, husband of Ruth Maresh

Diane Leffler, friend of Laura Wagner

Kim Wagner, brother of Laura Wagner

Jon Luebbert, nephew of Liz Luebbert

Todd Schantz, nephew of Merna Recker

Jakson, grandson of Connie & Roger Paus

Jane Easterly, Robin Schroeder's mother

Kelsy Sherwood

Dan Fiala

Steve Blocher

Julie Bruning

Jordan Howell

Paula French

Rick & Susan Hicks

Korbin Hardenbrook

Eric & Kelli Sherwood

Nancy & Jack Nemec

Zain Dabo, great-nephew of Clair Smidt
Rob Wilson, son of Bob & Tisha Wilson
Quentin Pagels, grandson of Susan Pagels
Sally Benson, friend of Sam Linder
Stacey Krieger, granddaughter of Claire Smidt
Carol Becker Eilerts, sister of Beverly Hansen
Jim Bothmer, friend of Jim & Kathi Sherwood
Deb Daberkow Baker, friend of Laura Wagner
Mary Johansen, sister-in-law of Nancy Petersen
Brian Jorgensen, Mary Thomas's brother-in-law
Linda Tuttle, sister-in-law of Art & Shari Hickman
Marilyn Bruhn, Tisha Wilson's mom
Nate Thiele, friend of Roger & Mary Vander Pol
Zach Parker, step-grandson of Judy Mutzenberger
Mikaela Flores, great niece of Terry & Nancy Petersen
Ronnie & Joy Colsden, cousins of Rick & Susan Hicks
Jean Dahlgren, Shelly Welding & Scott Dahlgren's mother
Betty Mahannah, Willis Mahannah's mom
For the Recipients of the Prayer Squares given by Grace and
Trinity

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Calendar This Week

Monday: Cub Scouts at Grace – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Pastor Text Study – 10:00 a.m.

Trinity Women's Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday: Bells practice at Grace – 5:00 p.m.

Christian Education at Trinity – 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

BSF Group at Grace - 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday: BSF Group at Trinity – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Grace Quilters – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Friday: Grace Quilters – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday: Worship Service at Trinity – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: Worship Service at Grace – 9:00 a.m.