

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



*January 5, 2025,
10:00am*

Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present, and emerging.

GATHERING

Prelude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

**so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen

In the mercy of almighty God,

Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (verses 1, 2, & 3)

#308

Apostolic Greeting

Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The First Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 60

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading is from Ephesians, chapter 3

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:

⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

River in Judea

Often times I dream of music, of the river that freely flows.
And it sings a song sweeter than honey, one every body knows.
Late at night I hear it singing then again when I wake at dawn.
And it fills me up with hope and good will, the will to go on, go on.

There is a river in Judea, that I heard of long ago.
And it's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out, my soul cries out to know.

I believe it keeps on travelin' but it rests on the Sabbath day.
And the time when it pauses in stillness, I almost hear it pray.
When I'm weary and downhearted, long for the song it sings,
For the calm within its gentle blue, the peace that it brings, it brings.

May the time not be too distant when we meet by the river, meet by the shore.
'Til then dream of that wonderful day as we sing once more, once more:

There is a river in Judea, Hallelu, that I heard of long ago, Hallelu.
It's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out,
My soul cries out to the River in Judea, Hallelujah!

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**The Gospel for today comes from Matthew, chapter 2
Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones*

Hymn of the Day *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

#275

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

... God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

Offering

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach

Offering Prayer


God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

Amen.


Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



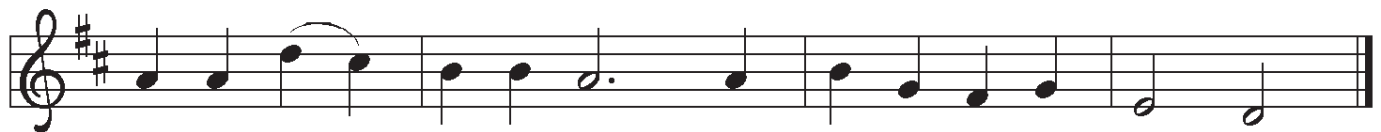
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

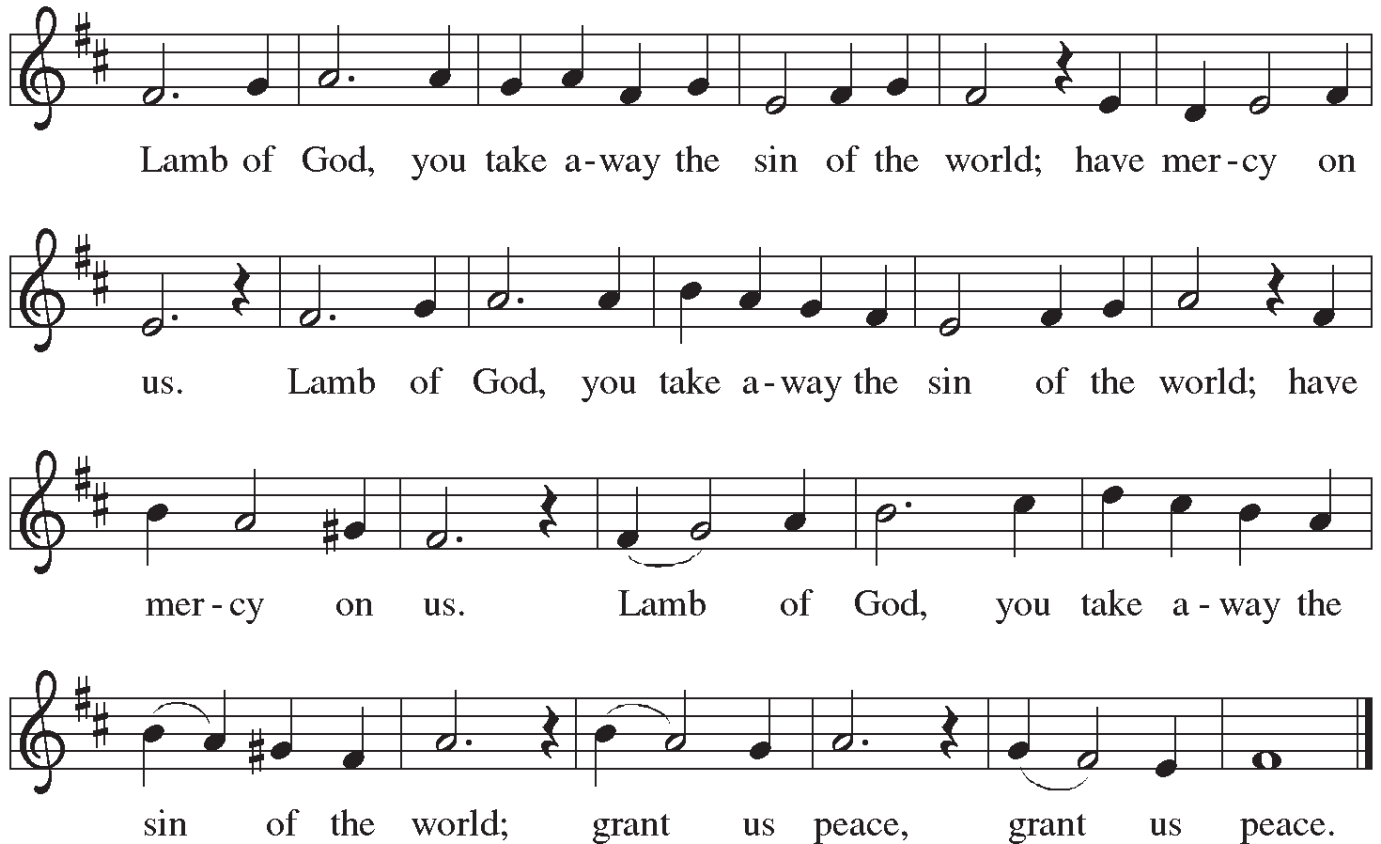
Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

Communion

Our communion bread is gluten free and the communion cups with clear liquid have grape juice instead of wine.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Prayer After Communion

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn The First Noel

#300

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

In Thee Is Gladness

J. S. Bach



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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones **Organist:** Elaine Mann
Assisting Minister: Mitch Piper **Choir Director:** Diana Cataldi
Reader: Roger Pomplun

Weekly Calendar

<p><u>SUNDAY (5th)</u> Coffee Hour – 9:30am Worship – 10am</p>	<p><u>WEDNESDAY</u> Text Study – 12pm Choir Rehearsal – 7pm</p>	<p><u>SATURDAY</u> Roland Krause Memorial Service – 12pm</p>
<p><u>MONDAY</u> <i>Epiphany</i></p>	<p><u>THURSDAY</u> ADRC – Strong Bodies – 1pm Pacibells – 6pm</p>	<p><u>SUNDAY (12th)</u> Coffee Hour – 9:30am Worship – 10am</p>
<p><u>TUESDAY</u> Prayer Group – 11am ADRC – Strong Bodies – 1pm</p>		
<p>Other groups using the building this week: ADRC, Jonah, Scouts, ECWiT, EC Theater Guild</p>		

Sunday School

Sunday School continues in the new year. Check out the following schedule for the first half of 2025.

- January 5
- March 2
- January 19
- March 16
- February 2
- April 6
- February 16
- May 4

Sunday school takes place right after the Children’s Time during the service. See you there!

Annual Meeting

The church’s annual meeting is only a few months away and will take place on February 2. In the first weeks of January, Andrew will be assembling the Annual Report that will be presented at the meeting. If you are a member of one of our ministries, please try and send your ministry report to him as soon as possible. Thank You.

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: info@grace-church.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: pastorphil@grace-church.org

Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org/our-ministry> *Bulletins may also be found on the same page.*

Recordings of worship services are broadcast Sundays 10:30am on WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Past services are posted at “Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin” YouTube page — <https://bit.ly/49WLWPj>



Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace-church.org or by calling the office at 715-832-9713

