FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 28, 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 In the Bleak Midwinter **Allen Orton Gibbs**

Welcome

Opening Hymn What Child is This **#296**

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

Hymn of Praise Angels, from the Realms of Glory **#275**

Prayer of the Day
O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

Word

The first reading is from Isaiah, chapter 63
7 I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
8 For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,”
and he became their savior
9 in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

The second reading is from Hebrews, chapter 2

10 It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many
children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
11 For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this
reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, 12 saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

13 And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again,

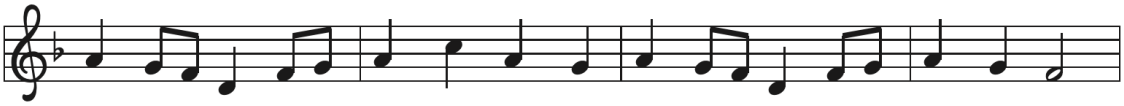
"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the
same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death,
that is, the devil, 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of
death. 16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham.
17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he
might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice
of atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself was tested by what he
suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

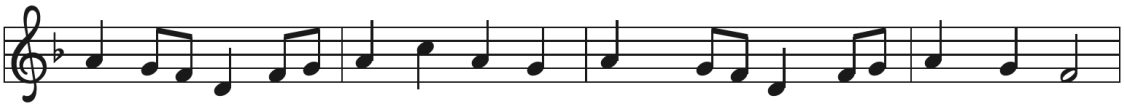
Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

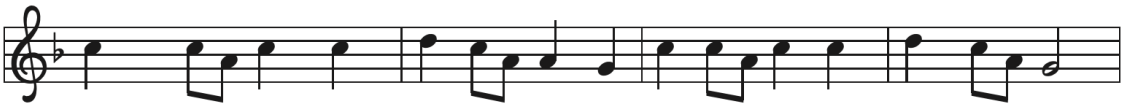
Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning



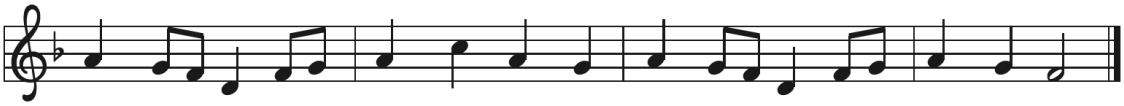
1 Gen - tle Jo - seph heard a warn - ing from an an - gel in the night;
2 Tar - gets of a ty - rant's ar - my, seek - ing safe - ty, flee - ing strife,
3 Give us, God, such faith and cour - age when we move from place to place,



val - iant Mar - y, maid - en moth - er, roused from sleep, pre - pared for flight:
leav - ing house and land and kin - dred, spurred by dreams of peace - ful life;
and to those who come a - mong us, make us chan - nels of your grace.



thus the Christ - child's fam - 'ly lived out what the proph - et had fore - told,
through the des - ert of un - know - ing and the night of doubt they went,
Let us see in ev - 'ry strang - er ref - u - gees from Beth - le - hem,



that he might be called from E - gypt as God's peo - ple were of old.
guid - ed by God's prom - ised pres - ence, by that trust made con - fi - dent.
help us of - fer each one wel - come and re - ceive the Christ in them.

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

13 Now after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and
said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell
you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” 14 Then Joseph got up, took
the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death
of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of
Egypt I have called my son.”
16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he
sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under,
according to the time that he had learned from the magi. 17 Then what had been spoken
through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:
18 “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”
19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in
Egypt and said, 20 “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for
those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” 21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and
his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling
Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a
dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. 23 There he made his home in a town called
Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be
called a Nazarene.”

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

Hymn of the Day In the Bleak Midwinter **#294**

Reflection on "In the Bleak Midwinter" from *O Come Emmanuel, Gordon Giles*, read by Norma Lionberger

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

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.

. . . Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we pray together the prayer Jesus teaches us:

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 The First Noel **#300**

Offering Prayer
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.
Amen

Sending

Blessing
The triune God,
glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, † bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

Sending Hymn Go Tell It On the Mountain **#290**

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

Postlude Sing with Joy, Glad Voices Lift **Schroeder**

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Minister: Rev. Phil Ruge–Jones
Assisting Minister: Mitch Piper
Reader: Randy Adams
Message Reader: Norma Lionberger
Organist: Elaine Mann

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025-12-28

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Calendar

Sunday (28th)
Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

Monday
Scouts – 6pm

Tuesday
Prayer Group – 11am

Wednesday
New Years Eve

Thursday
New Year's Day

Sunday (4th)
Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Jonah, Brighter than Sunshine, Scouts, ECWiT, Theater Guild

Church Closed

The church will be closed the week of New Years. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2026. Happy Holidays.

Altar Poinsettia

If you ordered a poinsettia for Christmas, feel free to pick it up from the church sanctuary. Any that are left will be thrown out, so don't be shy. Thank you.

Offering Envelopes

The 2026 offering envelopes are on a table in the narthex. Please pick your's up.

If you are a new member there may not be a set with your name on it since we have to order them far in advance. In that case, there are several blank sets without names or numbers on them. Feel free to pick one up and use it for the time being.

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 — http://grace–church.org/our–ministry

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