

Grace Lutheran Church

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The Ordinary God

Many people are returning to work, chores, and family responsibilities this week. The bright lights of Christmas are fading, giving way to the return of ordinary daily life. This is a good time for us to remember that the reality that Christmas celebrates—God coming to us in the life of Jesus—is not meant only for special occasions and late-December celebrations. In fact, ordinary life is where it matters most.

Today the church celebrates the moment in Jesus' infancy when his family circumcised him and named him "Jesus" according to the instruction of the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:31). Historians tell us that "Jesus" was a fairly common name, as were "Mary" and "Joseph." The circumstances of Jesus' birth were humble and anonymous, witnessed by livestock and shepherds. Casual outside observers would have seen nothing special at all in the birth of the Son of God.

In today's gospel, we learn that God chooses to enter the ordinary. The same is true about our lives. The daily grind of our work and family life may not always seem stimulating or significant to us. At times, it may even appear that no one notices what we do, or that our small contribution does not matter in the great scheme of things. Magazines and news outlets glorify fame and notoriety, suggesting that only those things and people that get airtime really matter. But in God's eyes, our ordinariness is not at all problematic. Quite the contrary, it makes us perfect candidates for God's most significant mission, to "go in peace" and serve others in Christ's name. This is not always glorious work. It may not ever be recognized. But our words of love, our caring actions, our little ways of doing justice or sharing joy—these are the very deeds of God, performed by our hands. Through our ordinary lives, Jesus is being birthed again. We are practicing Christmas.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has two sides to complete. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees.

1st Sunday after Christmas/Name of Jesus

January 1, 2017

During the Christmas season, the Lectionary readings invite us to reflect on the Incarnation of God: Jesus, God's Word made flesh. In the person of Christ, God enters human history and identifies with the human condition. Traditional colors of the season include white and gold, symbolizing joy in the light of day. The use of the color red is symbolizing God's love.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

ELW 269 (red book)

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

What Child is This

ELW 296

vs 1

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Prayer of the Day

☐ Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation.

☑ **Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Numbers 6:22-27

God commanded Aaron to say these words, known as the Aaronic benediction, in blessing the people of Israel. We too are marked with God's name and God's blessing as we are sent from our assemblies into the world.

☐ A reading from **Numbers:**

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, ²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; ²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you,

and give you peace. ²⁷So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

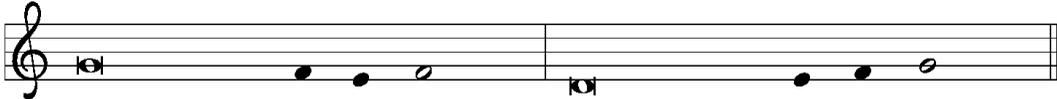
📖 God, we thank you for your Word,

📖 the story of your grace.

Psalm 8



How ma - jes - tic is your name in all the earth!



¹O | LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—

²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- | fants and children;**

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,

⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them,
human beings that you should | care for them? 📖**

⁵Yet you have made them little less | than divine;
with glory and hon- | or you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works | of your hands;
you have put all things un- | der their feet:**

⁷all | flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts | of the field,

⁸**the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths | of the sea.**

⁹O | LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth! 📖

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

Paul proclaims the ultimate significance of the nativity: Jesus was born the Son of God so that, because of him, we all may be God's children.

📖 A reading from **Galatians:**

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.

L God, we thank you for your Word,

C the story of your grace.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

Luke 2:15-21

Eight days after his birth, Jesus is circumcised according to Jewish law and given the name announced by the angel before his conception.

P The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

The Boy-Child of Mary

ELW 293 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

A Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A Blessed Jesus, your name is proclaimed through preaching, sacraments, music, art, and all forms of creativity. Bring together congregations and leaders from various traditions to make you known. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our synod companion churches, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Big Rapids, First Baptist Church in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul.* Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Blessed Jesus, you reveal yourself through creation, here on earth and throughout the cosmos. Protect endangered species, bring favorable weather, and guide us to be good stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Blessed Jesus, you show nations and leaders the way of the humble servant. Guide all in authority to use power for the benefit of all people throughout the world. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.* Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Blessed Jesus, you attend to the needs of your brothers and sisters. Hear the cry of those who call upon your name and send caregivers to provide help to all in need. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit, especially *Steve Kaiser, Rick Palmer, Victoria Steadman, John Burdick, Danny Gillons, David Hills, Doug Haddix, Oliver Cheeseman, and Joe Longcor.* Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Blessed Jesus, you shower us with your grace. Accompany students returning to school, workers who rest from a busy holiday season, and your people gathered here for worship. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Blessed Jesus, you emptied yourself to take on our likeness and form so we are blessed to become children of God. Inspire us by the witness of the faithful departed to confess your name above all names. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☑ **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

Clarinet Solo

Paul Pruitt

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

Let The Vineyards

WOV pg 21



☑ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our



cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,



that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the



prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,



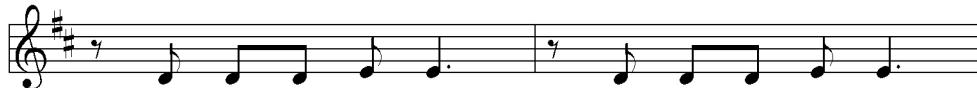
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Blessed are you,

G O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving



P The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.

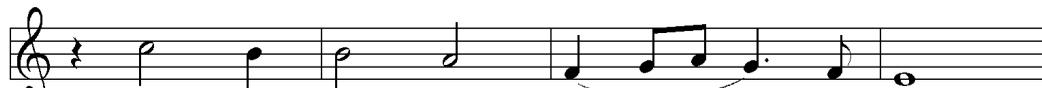


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



G It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

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

Eucharistic Prayer

☩ You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; He 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

☩ Christ has died. Christ is ris - en.

Christ will come a - gain.

¶ Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.



☪ A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

¶ Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.



☪ A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

¶ Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



☪ A - men, a - men, a - men.

Lord's Prayer

¶ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☪ **Our Father in heaven, holy 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

¶ Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.

Sit

Sharing the Meal

The usher(s) will release you from the pew. Left side and right side will process forward simultaneously forming two lines, to receive holy communion. Let the usher know if you would like to receive communion in the pew.



How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
Shout to the Lord

ELW 620 (red book)
ELW 821

Stand

Prayer after Communion

♩ On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.

♩ As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

☞ Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☞ Amen.

Sending Song

Love Has Come

ELW 292 (red book)

Dismissal

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 28

Weekly Giving: \$11,781.00

Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar, elbow macaroni and saltine crackers.

Mitten/Glove/Sock Tree - the Outreach Committee is again gathering donations of mittens/gloves and socks for area school children. The need for hats is less than the need for mittens/gloves and socks. A donation tree has been set-up in the gathering area. We plan to distribute the items collected to area schools the second week of January.

Communication Team will meet Tuesday, January 3 at 10:00 am in the new classroom in the South hallway.

Parish Administrator Victoria will be on vacation **January 5 – 14**. If anyone would like to help man the phone during her absence, a couple of hours every morning, please contact Pastor Paul.

Community Outreach meetings have been changed to the second Monday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, **January 9th** at 5:00 pm.

Small Group Ministries Committee is meeting on **Monday, January 9** at 6:30 pm. This will be our first meeting as a committee to organize and plan. We will be meeting in the new classroom, just past the mailboxes in the South hallway.

February GraceGram article deadline is **January 17th**. This allows adequate time to review, edit, prepare, copy and distribute prior to the beginning of February.

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45am
Assisting Ministers		Vickey Argo
Cantor		Jack Vos
Lector		Carol Vos
Communion Server		Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer		Katie Pohl
Usher		Gary/Lisa Golnek Doug/Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr. Children's Church		Eve Wright Children's Church
Chancel Team	Cindy Beckwith	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, January 8, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Steve Kaiser	Vickey Argo
Lector	Jack Vos	Gwen Hansen
Communion Server	Melissa Patton	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grayson Patton	Gabe Barnaart
Usher	Mark/Jana Bishop Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Mark Anton, Gwen Hansen Sandy Mosteller, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr. Children's Church	Steve/Peg Kaiser Volunteers	Doug/Diane Neeb Children's Church Tom, Hope, Emma Peck
Chancel Team	Cindy Beckwith	

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, January 1	Worship at 10:00 am
Monday, January 2	Adult forum 6:00 pm
Tuesday, January 3	Communication Team 10:00 am Executive Board 5:30 pm
Wednesday, January 4	Worship Committee 6:30 pm Prayer Group 6:00 pm