

12.28.2025

10:00 am



First Sunday of Christmas

*Sharing God's love so that all
are served and supported.*



Today's Worship Theme

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

**115 East King Street | Boone, North Carolina | Office 828.264.2206 |
www.graceboone.org | graceboone@graceboone.org**



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Greeter: TBD

Usher: Roger Bodo

Coffee Host: Dawn Anderson

If you are visiting, please review the

Welcome Pew Card in the hymnal holder.

✠ GATHER ✠

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

For up-to-date info, see the "Grace Happenings" Thursday e-newsletter and our website's monthly calendar (also displayed in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall).



PRELUDE

"The Cherry Tree Carol"

Aaron Shows

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin, kneeling as you are able. **Reconciling God, we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. 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.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✠ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

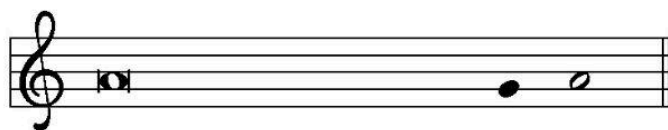
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please share a sign of Christ's peace.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

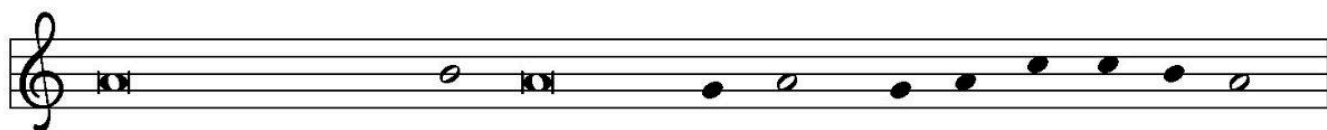
Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



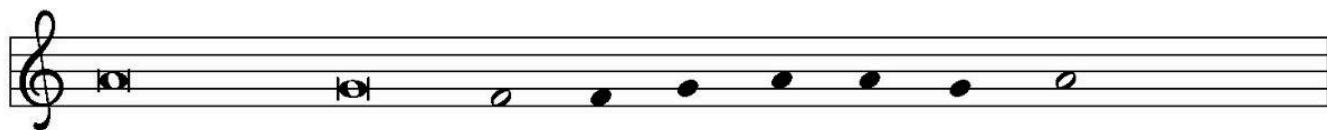
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

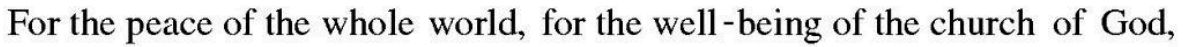


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

(CONT.)





This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



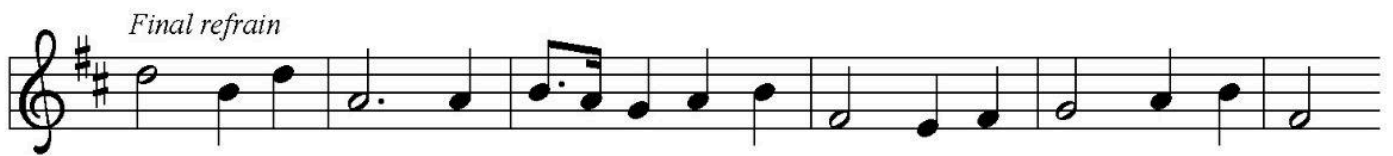
2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Please be seated.

✠ **WORD** ✠

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children may come forward for the Children's Message, then go upstairs for Children's Church & Music, and return for communion.



A READING FROM Isaiah 63: 7-9

Lector: Cinda Williamson

Israel saved by God's own presence.

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.

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

Psalms 148 *Read responsively.*

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² **young men and maidens, old and young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

A READING FROM Hebrews 2:10-18

Christ shares flesh and blood to free humankind.

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.

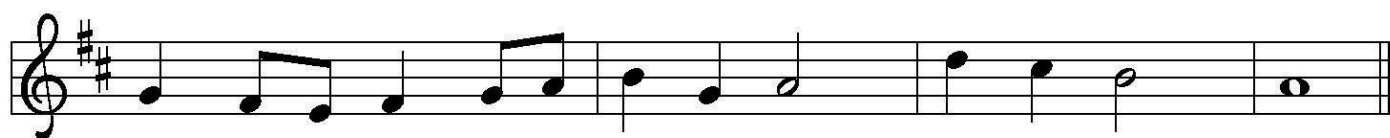
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

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.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:13-23

The slaughter of innocent children

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³Now 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.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵and 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.”

¹⁶When 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. ¹⁷Then 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.”

¹⁹When 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.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But 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. ²³There 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.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Dana Holden

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning"

ACS 1060



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.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. **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.**

Please kneel as you are able.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Each portion of the prayer ends with these words:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Please be seated.

✠ **MEAL** ✠

OFFERING SONG

"The Coventry Carol"

Stephen R. Johnson

*Lully, Lullay, thou little tiny child, by, by, lully lullay.
Lully lullay, thou little tiny child, by, by lully lullay.*

*O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day
This poor youngling, for whom we sing by, by lully lullay?*

*Herod the king, in his raging charged he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay*

*That woe is me, poor child for thee! and ever mourn and say,
For thy parting neither say nor sing by by lully lullay
Lully lullay, thou little tiny child, by, by lully lullay.*

Thank you for partnering with Grace. Visit www.graceboone.org/donate, or place your in the Narthex offering box or mail it to the church office.



Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.



THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

ELW 288

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 *"Variations on Let Our Gladness Have No End"* Jonathan R. Mueller

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Are given to the glory of God and
in celebration of Christmas
by the People of Grace.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Is burning to the glory of God
and in celebration of Jesus' birth
by Ron & Gail Schuette.

READINGS FOR January 4

Jeremiah 31:7-14 | Psalm 147:12-20 | Ephesians 1:3-14 | John 1:[1-9] 10-18

GIVING REPORT

Giving September 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025

November Giving	November Budgeted Giving	Year to Date Giving	Year to Date Budgeted Giving
\$23,316.00	\$33,333.33	\$79,309.63	\$99,999.99

*'Tis the Season
at Grace Lutheran Church*

Jan. 4: 10:00am 2nd Sunday of Christmas Worship Service

