
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Words of Welcome

Thank you for worshipping at Grace today. For more information about Grace and its ministries, please visit our website www.graceboone.org or speak with a member of the Hospitality Ministry or one of our **ushers who are waiting in the Narthex. Currently we offer both in-person and online worship options.**

During Worship:

- Bulletin Notes: Congregation responses are in BOLD print; "ELW" refers to the red hymnal; The Holy Bible is in the lower racks below the pews.
- Devices for the hearing impaired and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.
- Please turn off all cell phones or place in silent mode.
- We especially welcome and encourage families with young children to join us for worship.
- To reach the restrooms and water fountain, exit through the double doors at the back of the Sanctuary and turn right.
- Worship Services, worship bulletins and information about upcoming events are available online at www.graceboone.org. Follow on Facebook and YouTube.
- Wifi is available through our GraceGuests network (password: GraceGuests1234).

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Affirmation of Welcome

In the name of Jesus, who invites us with reconciling love and grace to join in the kingdom of God, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church welcomes all who profess, or seek to profess, Jesus Christ as their Savior. Believing that the Gospel is God's gift to all, we rejoice in the diversity of God's people and welcome all, regardless of age, cultural and economic background, ethnic and linguistic heritage, gender, marital status, physical and mental ability, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. We are all one in God's eyes, sharing in the free gifts of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we encourage all to take part in the life of this congregation as we worship, witness and openly share the love of God through Christ our Lord.

Lutherans sing!

Music functions as an integral part of the service, carrying prayer and praise and illuminating the proclamation of the word. You are encouraged to sing with energy, enthusiasm, and emotion. Feel free to sing in harmony...the choir often sings unison on the first and last verses and harmony on the inner verses. Let us join our voices and become one as we sing out with joy and worship our Lord together.

Today's Worship Theme

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

✠ GATHER ✠

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Suo Gan"
Violin: Lillian Hall; Piano: Susan Frank

Arr. by Lee Burswold

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW 264

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be God's name forever. **Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

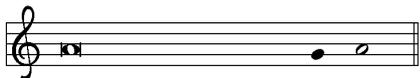
Please kneel as you are able.

God of new beginnings,
We confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on † Christ,
and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain
Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



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.

Final refrain



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.

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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

✠WORD✠

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited to come forward and then welcomed to the Sunday School classrooms upstairs for Children's Church and Music. Children will return to the sanctuary before Holy Communion.

A READING FROM Isaiah 35: 1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear for God is coming to save.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

A READING FROM James 5: 7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11: 2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.



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

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

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

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"All Earth Is Hopeful"

ELW 266

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 stand as you are able.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace.

✠MEAL✠

Please be seated.

OFFERING ANTHEM

*"What Star Is This with Beams So Bright" Arr. by Howard Helvey
Violin: Lillian J. Hall*

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed;"
And lo! the eastern sages stand to read in heav'n the Lord's command.

O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek thy face
Let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of thy light to use.

To God the Father, heav'nly Light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night,
To God the Holy Spirit raise an endless song of thankful praise!

To support the ministry of Grace, please consider the following giving options: 1) visit Grace at www.graceboone.org/donate; 2) place your gift in the offering plate as you enter for worship or leave from worship at Grace; 3) mail your giving to 115 E. King St, Boone, NC 28607; 4) personally deliver your giving on weekdays, Monday through Thursday, from 9:00am to 2:00pm, to the church office. Thank you for partnering with Grace and its ministries as we share God's love so that all are served and supported.



Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Eternal God, make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Musical notation for the Great Thanksgiving prayer, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

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

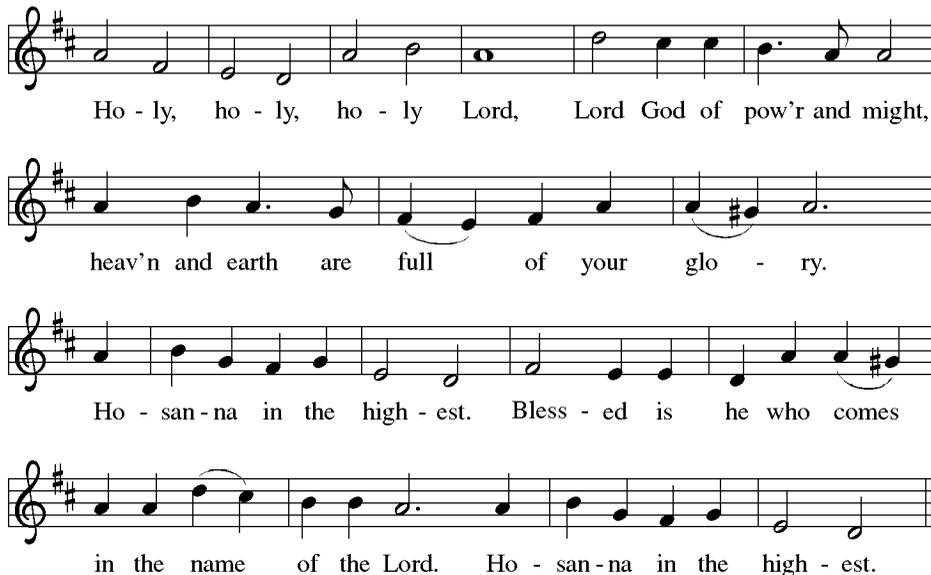
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated. This is the Lord's Table so all who seek Christ's true presence promised through this bread and wine are welcome and invited. Communion will be served at the head of the aisle. You will receive bread first (the bread is gluten and dairy free) and then wine (grape juice is available). Please alert an usher if you require the sacrament to be brought to your seat.

COMMUNION SONG

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"
"Wait for the Lord"

ELW 241
ELW 262

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

ELW 267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

Setting by Jeffrey Blersch

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Presiding.....Pastor Steve Troisi
 Preaching.....Vicar Spence Robertson
 Assisting Minister.....Charlie Wallin
 Lector.....Dana Holden
 Communion Assistant.....Bryan Berger
 Ushers.....Ron & Gail Schuette
 Altar Guild.....xxxxxx
 Musical Accompaniment.....Susan Frank & Reba Matthewson

ALTAR GREENERY

Is given to the glory of God and in honor of the staff at Grace by Suzanne Wise.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Is burning to the glory of God and in memory of Betty Schuette and Frank Lund by Gail & Ron Schuette.

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 18

Isaiah 7:10-16 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-25

GIVING REPORT

Giving September 1, 2022 through October 30, 2022

October Giving	October Budgeted Giving	Year to Date Giving	Year to Date Budgeted Giving
\$17,814.00	\$27,500.00	\$32,852.92	\$55,000.00

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Grace Lutheran: Sharing God's love so that all are served and supported.