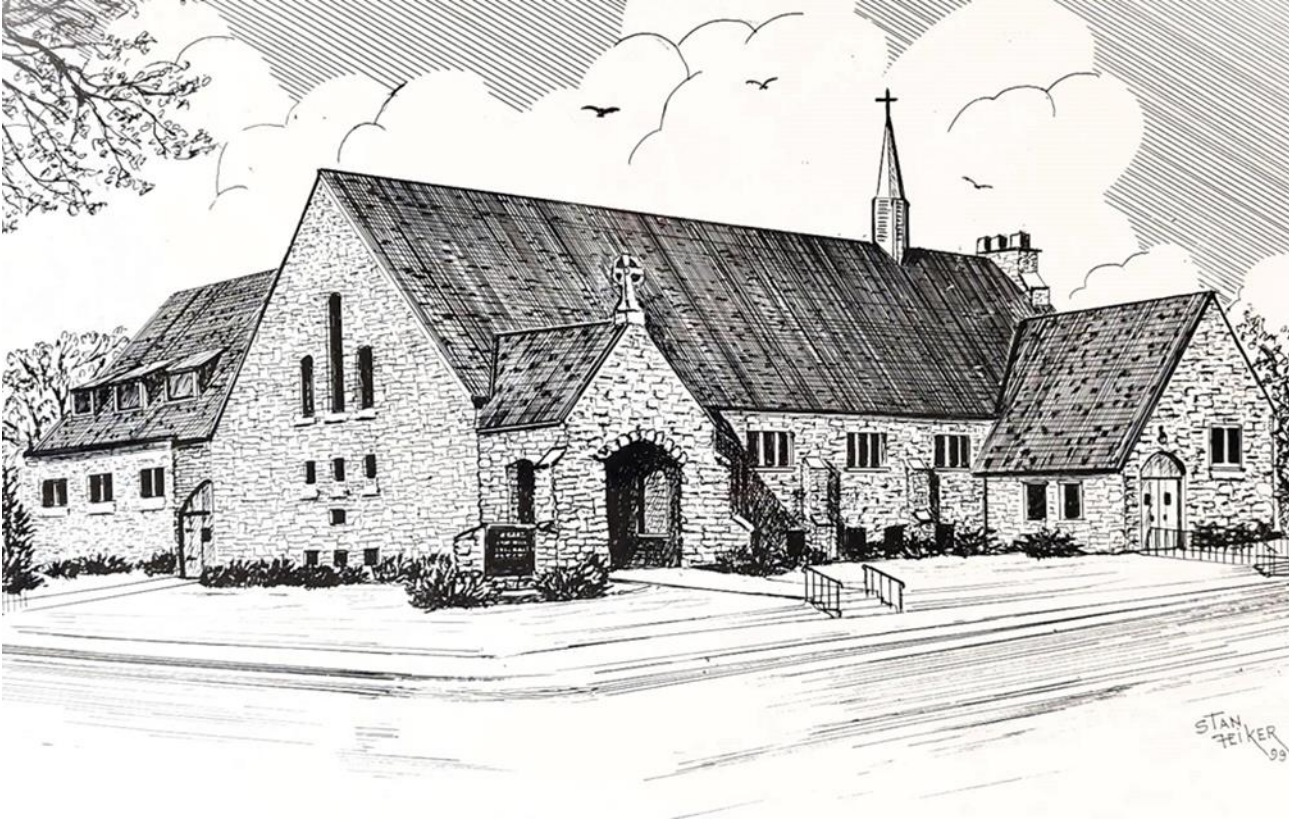


Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Racine, Wisconsin

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 24, 2023
Morning Service

**GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**
3700 Washington Ave., Racine, WI 53405
www.gracelutheranracine.net
262-633-4831

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. David W. Hintz
(920) 227-7915 (mobile)
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Welcome to Grace!

December 24, 2023

What We Believe:

✠ As Lutheran Christians we stand with the church of the ages and confess the faith of the **Holy Bible**, which is **God's Word**.

✠ We believe that our **Triune God** created man and woman holy; however, since we sinned and still sin we cannot free ourselves from **sin and death**. Therefore, God sent His Son **Jesus Christ**, who is our **only way to salvation**. By His death and resurrection and through no work or decision of our own, we have forgiveness, life, and salvation.

✠ We joyfully receive these gifts in His Word, and in the holy sacraments of **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**.

✠ In all our teaching and preaching we seek to be faithful to God's holy **Law** which shows our sin, and to proclaim His precious **Gospel**, which is the good news of our **salvation in Christ!**

✠ We subscribe also to **Luther's Small Catechism** and the other documents in the Book of Concord of 1580 because they faithfully confess these biblical truths.

Guests and Holy Communion:

Holy Communion is a gift Christ gives to His Church. In it, He offers His true Body and Blood, in, with and under the bread and wine. When received in faith, it brings forgiveness, new life and salvation.

Holy Communion is also a statement of our unity in Christ (*community*). Those who receive the Lord's Supper at Grace Lutheran Church are baptized Christians who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical Lutheran faith.

For this reason, *only members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod* are ordinarily communed at this altar. If you have any questions regarding the doctrine of Close Communion, please talk to the pastor before or after the service.

Nursery: If your child becomes restless during the service, you are welcome to make use of the Nursery downstairs.

Friendship Pad: Please sign the Friendship Pad when it is passed during the service.

Offering: The offering plates are not passed. Rather, they are located at the back of the nave. Please place your offering in one of the plates as you enter or leave the church. You may also hand it to one of the ushers.

Fellowship Time: Immediately following the 9:00 AM Worship.

Large Print Hymnals: Are available from the ushers!

Electronic Devices: PLEASE silence all devices during worship. Thanks!

May the Lord bless your worship today!

Fourth Sunday in Advent Divine Service, Setting Three

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, CHIMES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS + CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

♪ The Agnel Gabriel from Heaven Came	LSB 356
Invocation	LSB 184
Confession of Sins and Absolution	LSB 184

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b

- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.
- C** **The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
In them he has set a tent for the sun,**
- C** **which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**
- P** Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**
- C** **as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

♪ **Kyrie** **LSB 186**

♪ **Salutation and Collect of the Day** **LSB 189**

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Epistle – Romans 16:25–27***Pew Bible, p. 951***

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

♪ Alleluia**LSB 190****Holy Gospel – Luke 1:26–38*****Pew Bible, p. 855-856***

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Nicene Creed

LSB 191 or inside back cover of hymnal

Catechism Time – The Lord’s Prayer

Luther’s Small Catechism, LSB 322

The Sixth Petition

P And lead us not into temptation.

P What does this mean?

C **God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory..**

♪ **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

LSB 357

Sermon

“The Salutation”

Luke 1:23-38

Prayer of the Church

♪ **Offertory**

LSB 192

The offering plates are not passed. Please see note on the first page of the bulletin.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

♪ Preface	LSB 194
♪ Sanctus	LSB 195
Lord's Prayer	LSB 196
The Words of Our Lord	LSB 197
♪ Pax Domini	LSB 197
♪ Agnus Dei	LSB 198

Distribution – If you are visiting with us, please read “Guests and Holy Communion,” printed on the inside cover of the Friendship Pad. If you would like to receive Holy Communion in your pew, please notify the pastor or an usher. If possible, please sit near the center aisle, and it will be brought to you at the conclusion of the distribution. Wine greatly diluted with water is available in purple-tinted cups in the center of each Communion tray for those with alcohol sensitivities.

Distribution Hymns:

♪ Savior of the Nations, Come	LSB 332
♪ Once He Came in Blessing	LSB 333
♪ Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	LSB 338
♪ Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring	LSB 353
♪ Nunc Dimittis	LSB 199
♪ Thanksgiving	LSB 200
♪ Salutation and Benedicamus	LSB 201
♪ Benediction	LSB 202
♪ O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide	LSB 355

+ TO GOD BE THE GLORY +

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 24th through December 31st

SUNDAY 9:00 AM DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
 10:30 AM NO BIBLE STUDY/NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
 4:30 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

MONDAY 10:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 6:30 PM DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

FRIDAY

SUNDAY 9:00 AM DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
 10:30 AM BIBLE STUDY

The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh

When King David “lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,” he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David, and an everlasting throne. This He has done, not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, “conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary” (Apostles’ Creed). That holy Child, the incarnate “Son of the Most High,” receives “the throne of His father David” and begins to reign “over the house of Jacob forever” (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His Body is the true and eternal Temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is “the Mystery that was kept secret for long ages” but is now “made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God” in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).