



Sunday, December 31, 2023

*Christmas 1*

## WELCOME

## INVOCATION

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 145

**Pastor:** I will extol You, my God and King,

**People:** And bless Your name forever and ever.

**Pastor:** Every day I will bless You

**People:** And praise Your name forever and ever.

**Pastor:** One generation shall commend Your works to another,

**People:** And shall declare Your mighty acts.

**Pastor:** The LORD is gracious and merciful,

**People:** Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Pastor:** The LORD is good to all,

**People:** And His mercy is over all that He has made.

**People:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## **ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY**

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth:  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

***Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.***

Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines His Infant Light. *[Refrain]*

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son.  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One. *[Refrain]*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

## **Psalm 90**

<sup>1</sup>What Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. <sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. <sup>3</sup>You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" <sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. <sup>5</sup>You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: <sup>6</sup>in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. <sup>7</sup>For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. <sup>8</sup>You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. <sup>9</sup>For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. <sup>10</sup>The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. <sup>11</sup>Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? <sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. <sup>13</sup>Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants! <sup>14</sup>Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. <sup>15</sup>Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. <sup>16</sup>Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. <sup>17</sup>Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Applying Wisdom***CONFESSION OF SIN - Psalm 130**

**Pastor:** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**People:** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**Pastor:** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**People:** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** **Amen.**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH****Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living, and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**COMMITMENT TO LOVE**

**Pastor:** Let us reaffirm our commitment to love one another, using 1 John 4.

**People:** **In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

## CONFESSION OF SACRAMENT

**Pastor:** Christ comes to us in, with, and under the bread and the wine. Where else has the Lord come to His people?

**People:** The Lord has come to us in the burning bush, the pillar of cloud and fire, Mount Sinai, and above the mercy seat on the ark of the covenant. In Christ, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. Now, Christ comes to us in bread and wine.

*(offerings can be placed on a plate near front pews)*

*Holy Communion, or the Lord's Supper, is celebrated today. Our Lord cautions us to be discerning before participating in the Supper (1 Cor. 11:28-30). For this reason, we ask all those communing here for the first time to speak with Pastor Aaron prior to communing. The Lord bids the baptized to come united in the following: in repentance for the forgiveness of sins (1 Cor. 11:23-25; Matt. 26:26-28), in confession of who Christ is and what Christ has done (1 Cor. 11:26), in faith and love with our fellow communicants (1 Cor. 11:20-22), and believing that Christ is bodily present in bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:27-29).*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

### **AWAY IN A MANGER**

Away in a manger no crib for a bed;  
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay;  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes;  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky;  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay;  
Close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care;  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

## ***IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR***

It came upon a midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth good will to men  
From heaven's all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing

Still thro' the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load  
Whose forms are bending low  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow  
Look now for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing  
O rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing

## **PRAYERS**

### **BENEDICTION - Jude 24**

**Pastor:** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

***Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.

*[Refrain]*

The shepherds feared and  
trembled when lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth

*[Refrain]*

Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn

*[Refrain]*

### **NEW MEAL MINISTRY AT GRACE**

The Meal Ministry will be a team of volunteers that can provide a meal for those in a time of need; families who may be welcoming a new baby, recovering from an illness, hospitalization, or managing a crisis. If you have a heart for serving and would like to be part of this ministry team please contact Shaila Schmidt at [shailashome@cox.net](mailto:shailashome@cox.net) or Jody Glaser at [jody.m.glaser@gmail.com](mailto:jody.m.glaser@gmail.com).

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We encourage you to bring your kindergarten through eighth-grade children and grandchildren to the Sunday school classrooms at 10:30 every Sunday after the 9:00 AM service.

(Classes resume on January 7, 2024) Look for signs on the patio to direct you to the classrooms.

### **GRACE WOMENS BOOK CLUB**

Our next book is *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picault. We will meet on Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 PM at Judi Anderson's home. 2817 Cantegra Glen, Escondido. Gate Code #1532. Please confirm your participation by contacting Judi at [heyjude6168@cox.net](mailto:heyjude6168@cox.net).

### **YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY**

All North County Lutheran church young adults are one big group here at Grace! This group is geared toward young adults 18 years and up. Make some new friends while building your relationship with God. We meet every Thursday from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the youth room. If you have questions please call or text Helena at 760 310-1566. Please invite your friends. We can't wait to see you there!

### **GULLS HOCKEY NIGHT**

Grace Family Fun! Bring your family and friends to the Gulls Hockey Game on Saturday, April 6 at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$25 with a percentage going back to Grace. (The amount we receive depends on the total amount of tickets sold). Purchase your tickets by March 22 from Helena Isbell at 760 310-1566 Hope to see you there!

### **CRAFTS & PRAYER QUILTS**

This Grace group welcomes anyone who desires to craft and quilt with fellow praying Christians. We make cards and crafts to cheer up people in assisted living homes, hospitals, and much more! Bring your project or start a new one with us and share in the fellowship! We meet on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:00 PM at Grace in the classroom next to the church parking lot gate.

### **FEELING FIT EXERCISE AT GRACE!**

Join us for **FREE** exercise every Monday and Wednesday from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. We meet in the multi-purpose room or narthex. For any questions please call Helena at 760 310-1566. Hope to see you soon!

## THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Season begins at sunset on December 24<sup>th</sup> and ends at sunset on January 5<sup>th</sup>, the day before Epiphany. These are the 12 days of Christmas.

The color for Christmas is white. White is the color of purity and eternity and joy. The Church celebrates the purity of the sinless Son of the virgin. The Eternal God has stepped into human history. There is great joy in the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ!



### *Prayers:*

Prayers for Ken Guy - recovery

Prayers for Regina and John Todd - battling COVID

### *Continued prayers/homebound:*

Lorene Best, Sherry Fischer, Norma Kellerup, Ellie Liebmann,  
Dorothy Ross, Dennis Roth, Janis Smith.

## ON SITE SERVICES AND MEETINGS

### Sunday Worship:

9:00AM English Worship Service

10:30AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study

11:30AM Spanish Worship Service

For online worship please go to:

[gracelutheranescondido.org/sermons/](https://gracelutheranescondido.org/sermons/)

[gracelutheranescondido.org](https://gracelutheranescondido.org)

New Horizons Bible Study Wed. 9:30am

Women's Bible Study 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thur. 9am

High School Youth *"The Stand"* Wed. 6:30-9pm

Adult Bible Study Thursday 7pm

Men's Bible Study Saturday 7:30am

Junior High School *"Face to Face"* Sat. 5:30-8:30pm

[graceschoolescondido.org](https://graceschoolescondido.org)