**Grace Lutheran Church – 12.27.20**

*Our Mission: "Grace Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community*

*called to gather, grow, and give together in Grace.*

**P:** This is the day the Lord has made,

**C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God’s endless mercy and love.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God’s endless mercy and love.

**P:** Merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, the courage to try again. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**P:** People of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of ╬ Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God’s love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

**C:** **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn – Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

**GREETING**

**P:** Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Let us pray. Heavenly Father, when Jesus was baptized you claimed him as your Son. Claim us as your children, inheritors of your glorious kingdom. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Luke 2:22-40**

**Reader:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke

**22**When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **23**(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), **24**and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

**25**Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202:22-40&version=NRSV&interface=print&showfootnotes=no&showxrefs=no&showheadings=no&showwoj=no#fen-NRSV-24991a)] this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. **26**It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202:22-40&version=NRSV&interface=print&showfootnotes=no&showxrefs=no&showheadings=no&showwoj=no#fen-NRSV-24992b)] **27**Guided by the Spirit, Simeon[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202:22-40&version=NRSV&interface=print&showfootnotes=no&showxrefs=no&showheadings=no&showwoj=no#fen-NRSV-24993c)] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, **28**Simeon[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202:22-40&version=NRSV&interface=print&showfootnotes=no&showxrefs=no&showheadings=no&showwoj=no#fen-NRSV-24994d)] took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

**29**“Master, now you are dismissing your servant[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202:22-40&version=NRSV&interface=print&showfootnotes=no&showxrefs=no&showheadings=no&showwoj=no#fen-NRSV-24995e)] in peace,  
    according to your word;  
**30**for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
**31**    which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
**32**a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
    and for glory to your people Israel.”

**33**And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. **34**Then Simeon[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202:22-40&version=NRSV&interface=print&showfootnotes=no&showxrefs=no&showheadings=no&showwoj=no#fen-NRSV-25000f)] blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed **35**so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

**36**There was also a prophet, Anna[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202:22-40&version=NRSV&interface=print&showfootnotes=no&showxrefs=no&showheadings=no&showwoj=no#fen-NRSV-25002g)] the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37**then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. **38**At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202:22-40&version=NRSV&interface=print&showfootnotes=no&showxrefs=no&showheadings=no&showwoj=no#fen-NRSV-25004h)] to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

**39**When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. **40**The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**Reader:**The Gospel of the Lord

**Sermon – Pastor Andy Tyrrell**

**Hymn of the Day – Love Has Come**

**APOSTLE'S CREED**

**C: 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 again 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.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**P:** Lord in Your Mercy.

**C: Hear our Prayer.**

**Sharing the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**The Offering –** If you are able to continue to support the church financially during this difficult time, we would be grateful. Options for electronic giving are on our website (gracelutheran1.org). If you need help using the online giving tools please contact Pastor Andy (pastor@gracelutheran1.org). Another option is to mail your offering directly to the church.

**Offering Prayer**

**P:** Let us pray. Generous God,

**C: you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Holy Communion**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**C: 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.**

**Prayer After Communion**

**P:** Let us pray. Holy one, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have experienced your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way of justice. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**P:** Grace from God’s own heart, peace from the ╬ Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn – Soon and Very Soon**

**P**: Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*catholic means universal/all Christians