

# THE LORD'S DAY

*Sunday, December 3, 2023, 11:00 a.m.*

*Morning Worship*

## **The Welcome and Announcements**

### **The Prelude**

**\*The Call to Worship:** Psalm 100

### **\*The Invocation and The Lord's Prayer**

"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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen."

### **\*The Hymn of Adoration: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - #194**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## **The Corporate Confession of Sin**

"Eternal and merciful God, you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and you have set us on paths of righteousness for your name's sake. Yet we have strayed from your way; we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, through what we have done and what we have left undone. As we remember the lavish gift of your grace, we praise you and give thanks that you forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and in whose strong name we pray. Amen."

## **The Silent Confession of Sin**

## **The Assurance of Pardoning Grace**

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

## **\*The Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'n-ly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

**The Old Testament Reading: Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**The Pastoral Prayer**

**\*The Hymn of Grace:** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" - #221

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright. Amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright. She bore to men a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story, proclaimed by angels bright,  
How Christ, the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night.  
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found him, as angel heralds said.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'ry where.  
True man yet very God; from sin and death He saves us and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,  
Bring us at length, we pray to the bright courts of heaven and to the endless day.

**The Worship of God with Our Tithes and Offerings**

**The Choral Anthem:** "Of the Father's Love Begotten" ..... arranged by Lloyd Larson

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!*

*O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore!*

*O ye heights of heav'n adore Him, angel hosts His praises sing,  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore!*

*Christ, to thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore!*

“The Reason for the Season”

<sup>14</sup>The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” <sup>16</sup>To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.” <sup>17</sup>And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

**\*The Hymn of Thanksgiving:** “Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor” - #230

Thou was wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love’s sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love’s sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love’s sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising, hea’ward by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love’s sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

**\*The Benediction**

**\*congregation standing**

# the week at grace

## **Birthdays This Week**

Anthony Craven – December 4

## **Today**

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

5:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols/Christmas Party

## **Monday**

6:30 p.m. Trail Life/American Heritage Girls

## **Tuesday**

6:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship Supper

## **Wednesday**

6:00 p.m. Ladies Christmas Fellowship

## **Next Sunday**

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

5:30 p.m. Evening Worship

## **Elder on Duty for this Sunday**

Charles Clayton

## **Deacon on Duty for This Sunday**

Austin Dye

## **Ushers for This Sunday**

Tim Allison, Hunter Rochester

## **Elder on Duty for Next Sunday**

Anthony Craven

## **Deacon on Duty for Next Sunday**

John Hutchins

## **Ushers for Next Sunday**

Tim Allison, Hunter Rochester

# announcements

**Welcome to Grace Presbyterian Church** – We are so glad that you are here to worship with us! If you are a visitor, please fill out an information card and place it in the offering plate.

**Schedule Change** – There will be no Sunday School or Wednesday night activities during the month of December. We will resume these activities in January.

**Lessons and Carols Service** – During the evening worship tonight, we will have our “Lessons and Carols” service. Make plans to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. Our church Christmas party will be held immediately following the “Lessons and Carols” service.

**Men's Fellowship** – The men of the church will be having a venison dinner on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. It will be held at Freedom Ridge (Casey Skelton's place). The address is 5110 Oktoc Road. Please bring a camping chair.

**Ladies Fellowship** - The ladies of the church will be decorating Christmas cookies on Wednesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 8pm in the Fellowship hall.

**Baby Shower** - The Women of Grace will be hosting a baby shower for the graduates of the First Steps Pregnancy Center's fall parenting classes. The shower will be Monday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the First Steps Clinic on University Ave. If you would like to help with this special event, please speak with Charlotte Taylor (662-418-8225).