

First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2017
8:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO GRACE

A blessed Christmas to all.

Prelude

Word of Welcome

Stand as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, † one God, now and forever.

C Amen

P Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Gracious God,

C in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen

P I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in † Jesus name.

C Amen

Gathering Hymn

'Joy to the World'

267

Greeting

P The grace and peace of Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh, be with you all.

C And also with you.

Be seated.

Call to Worship

A The light has dawned. The hope of the world is here.

C A baby is born, the Son of God, our infant Savior.

A God's promises are fulfilled. The new covenant is written.

C A baby is born, the Son of God, our infant Savior.

A A virgin has borne a son. He has been called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C A baby is born, the Son of God, our infant Savior.

A Angels have announced his birth. Shepherds have seen the newborn King, the baby Jesus.

**C Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth!**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray
Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

'Angels We Have Heard on High' vs 1 **289**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] 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"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon 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 ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna 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, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

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

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ‘The Bells of Christmas’ **298**

Stand as you are able.

Christmas Creed

C **We believe in one God, who is Creator, Ruler of the universe, Maker of all we see and all we don’t see: Source of all creation!**

We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ, God from God, Light from light, true God and true human. He is one with

**the Creator; the Word made flesh, our
Messiah: Savior of all creation!
We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit,
Breath of God moving among us. Who is
one with the Creator; one with the Christ;
our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of
all creation! Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Petitions end:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into your outstretched arms, O God, we
commend ourselves and all for whom we pray,
trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the
world.

C **Amen**

Peace

The people greet one another saying: 'Peace be with you'.

Be seated.

Offering

Stand as you are able.

Offertory 'What Child Is This' vs 3 **296**

Offering Prayer

A God with us:

C **You came as a baby to a manger. You
slept on straw and greeted shepherds.
You come again in bread and wine.
Remind us how good you are at blessing
ordinary things. And then, through these
gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in
the strength of your holy name. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

P Wonderful Counselor!
C Mighty God!
 P Everlasting Father!
C Prince of Peace!
 P We bless your Name forever!
C Light of Light!
 P Lord of Lords!
C King of Kings!
 P Emmanuel, God with us!
C We bless your Name forever!
 P True God, Giver of Life, Word of our Creator,
 Spirit of Counsel and Might; God of our
 essence, be with us now as we join in the
 celebration of your love.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

p 145

Be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Come to the communion rail by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. You may kneel or stand. Wine is in the common cup and tray of individual cups. If you prefer grape juice, ask the server. Children are invited for a blessing. All are welcome who believe Christ is present in this meal for the forgiveness of sins.

Hymns at the Distribution

'Infant Holy, Infant Lowly'	276
'Your Little Ones, Dear Lord'	286
'Angels We Have Heard' vs 2 & 3	289

Stand as you are able.

Table Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

A On this day, O God,

C you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Benediction

P May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

C Amen

P May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

C Amen

P May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

C Amen

P The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen

Closing Hymn 'Go Tell It on the Mountain' **290**

Dismissal

A Glory to God in the highest!

C Peace to God's people on earth!

A Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Prayer Huddle

Worship Assistants: December 31

Greeters: Mason – Verla Koerner
East – Phyllis & Gary Schroeder

Assisting Minister: Tom Jensen

Lector: Cheryl Muggenthaler

Communion 8:30: Gene Krull

Communion 10:30: Judy Cross

Ushers: Marty Grow, Laury Grow, Brian Klauer,
Kathy Lanska

Pianist: Lois Hilger

Attendance 12/24: 8:30 am-43 & 10:30 am-26
6:30 pm-93 **12/25:** 9:00 am - 19

H.S. Grilled Cheese Lunch: 117

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In Prayer this Week

For members on the Care List especially Henry Schoenborn and Pastor Jim Seim

For Healing for Tom Jensen; Mardie Paalman, Cookie Regal's sister; Winston Augustus Smith, Cheryl Muggenthaler's nephew; Mary Langdon, Cheryl Muggenthaler's sister-in-law; Rev. Jennie Johnson Wrege; Valerie Sieg; Marvin Wrege; Sharon Meier; Margaret Congdon; Jerry Wilharms.

For those with cancer especially Ellie; Mark Catlin; Roger Schmidt; Marian Breitenfeldt; Enid Andrews.

To the family of Melissa Heins at her passing, Daughter of Karen and Gene Krull.

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." Romans 12:12



If you have a Prayer Chain request, please contact Mary Hubers (731-1428) or Susan Pringnitz (733-7591). Call the church office with requests for prayer to be put in the bulletin and/or to ask for a prayer to be relayed to the Prayer Chain.

Welcome to Grace

Whether you are a member or visiting for the first time, may God's grace surround you today. There is a guest book to sign in the gathering area. If you are looking for a church home, you are welcome here.

Announcements

It is time for snow There is a sign up sheet on the desk in the narthex. We are asking for volunteers to keep the sidewalks clean of snow on a weekly basis.

The parking lot is taken care of however please consider helping with the other areas. Thank you!

Linwood Place Apartments has openings: large 2 BR with 1½ bath, large 2 BR, and 1 BR. Our waiting list is empty! Call now to see an apartment or to secure a spot for the future. This is the time to act!!! Call Becky at 920-734-7725 or 920-594-2016, or call Brian at 920-840-3578.

Semi Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 7th at 9:15 a.m. Please plan to attend.

GRACE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 31	8:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday, Jan. 1	7:30 p.m. AA Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 2	8:30 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday, Jan. 3	9:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 4 ...	10:00 a.m. Grilled Cheese Lunch
Friday, Jan. 5	9:00 a.m. Bible Study
Saturday, Jan. 6	9:00 a.m. Hmong Service
Sunday, Jan 7	8:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Congregation Meeting 9:25 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship

Christmas/Epiphany Open House



*You are invited
to the home of
Pastor Dan and Becky Luett
January 7, 2018*

from

2:00 to 4:00 pm

*Come and enjoy some holiday treats
and
enjoy our Christmas Wonderland.*

We live at 113 Woodside Court, Neenah, WI.