

# ***Understand about the Loaves***



“We are proclaiming what we have seen and heard also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3 EHV).

*A video feed of the service may also be viewed in the basement.  
In the entryway quiet bags are available for children.*



***Grace Lutheran Church and School***

*Advent Sunday 4 • December 21, 2025*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP:

**Usher Team C:** *Jerry Sharp, Burnell Nieuwenhuis,  
Stephen Krause, Brad Michalek*

HYMN ..... **704**

THEMATIC INTRODUCTION

PRAYER

INVOCATION:

We worship in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for his mercy.

**Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

**Amen!**



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,  
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,  
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.  
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.  
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray ...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen!**

OLD TESTAMENT ..... Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (EHV)

<sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.

<sup>16</sup>That is exactly what you asked from the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly. You said, “Do not let me hear the voice of the LORD my God anymore, and do not let me see this great fire again, or I will die.”

<sup>17</sup>Then the LORD said to me, “They have done well by saying what they said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up a prophet for them from among their brothers, like you, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them everything that I command him. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who will not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account.

PSALM OF THE DAY ..... Psalm 93 (EHV)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD reigns. He is clothed in majesty.  
The LORD is clothed—he wears strength like a belt.

**Yes, the world stands firm. It will not be moved.**

<sup>2</sup>Your throne was established long ago.

**You are from eternity.**

<sup>3</sup>The waves have lifted up, O LORD,  
the waves have lifted up their voice.

**The waves roar loudly.**

<sup>4</sup>Mightier than the thundering of the great waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea,

**the LORD on high is mighty.**

<sup>5</sup>Your testimonies stand very firm.

**Holiness beautifies your house for endless days, O LORD.**

GOSPEL READING ..... John 1:1-5, 14-18 (EHV)

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind.

<sup>5</sup>The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup>John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, 'The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.' " <sup>16</sup>For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.



These are our readings for today. Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

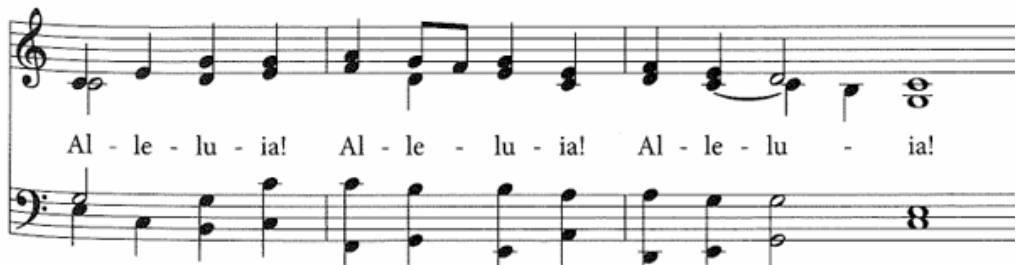
Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble and bass staff with lyrics.

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Musical notation for the second system, featuring a treble and bass staff with lyrics.

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Musical notation for the third system, featuring a treble and bass staff with lyrics.



**PROFESSION OF FAITH ..... The Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by Whom all things were made;  
Who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again  
according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge  
both the living and the dead,  
Whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
Who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified,  
Who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,**

**And I look for the resurrection of the dead  
And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN ..... **73** (Second Tune)

SERMON READING ..... 1 John 1:1-4 (EHV)

**1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have observed and our hands have touched regarding the Word of Life—<sup>2</sup>the life appeared, and we have seen it. We testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup>We are proclaiming what we have seen and heard also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We write these things to you so that our joy may be complete.

**“Understand about the Loaves”**

Jesus fed 5,000. The disciples got that. But they didn’t understand how that should impact their lives. We know who Bethlehem baby is. But is this impacting how we see the world and live in it? Do we “understand about the loaves”?



**Preaching Today:** Pastor Caleb Schaller



The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly

Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of

Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

OFFERING

PRAYERS

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 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.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

2 Tim 4

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Col

We lift them up to the Lord.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O LORD, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord:

1 Chron 1

*The Preface appropriate for the church year is read (p. 10), concluding with:*

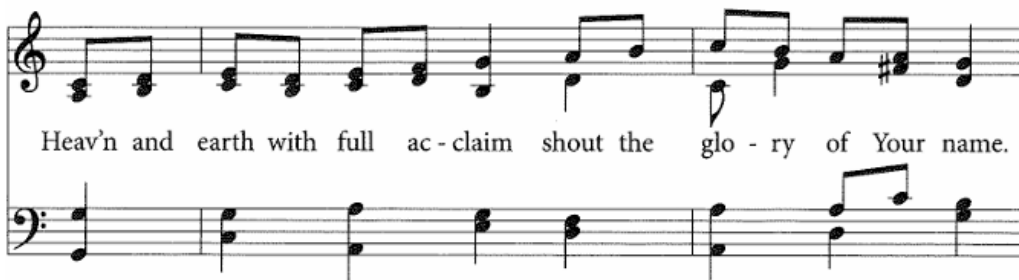
Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise Your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy ~ Sanctus

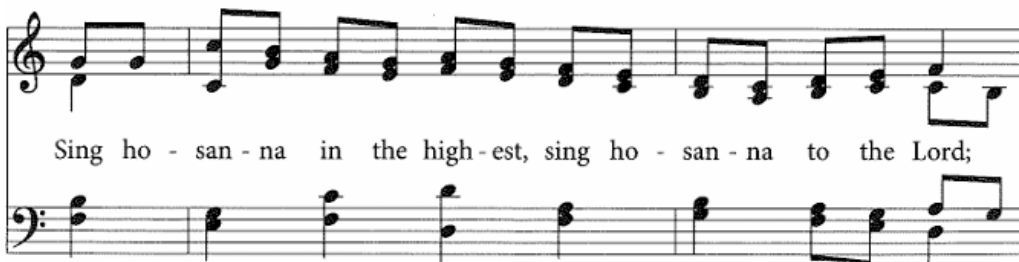
Isa  
Matt 2



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac - claim shout the glo - ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;

tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

Matt 26:26-27  
 Mark 14:22-24  
 Luke 22:19-20  
 1 Cor 11:23-29

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose blood, once  
 shed, true life re - stored, im - part Your joy, our  
 faith in - crease. Sus - tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

**Distribution With Communion Hymns**

Take and eat. This is the true body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink. This cup is the true blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

*Dismissal*

May this true body and true blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the true Christian faith unto life everlasting.  
 Amen. Depart in peace.

Lord, Now You Let Your Servant *~ Nunc Dimittis*

Luke 2:29-32

1. O Lord, now let Your ser - vant de - part in heav'n - ly peace,  
 2. All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, all glo - ry to the Son,

for I have seen the glo - ry of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 all glo - ry to the Spir - it, for - ev - er Three - in - One;

a Light to lead the Gen - tiles un - to Your ho - ly hill,  
 for as in the be - gin - ning, is now, shall ev - er be,

the glo - ry of Your peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
 God's tri - une name re - sound - ing through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Thanksgiving

John 14:23

My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,  
ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es  
tell - ing, shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your  
bod - y and Your blood be for my soul the high - est good.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a fermata over the final note. The second system ends with a fermata over the final note. The third system ends with a fermata over the final note. The fourth system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

## Benediction

Num 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

**Weekly Calendar: December 21-December 28, 2025**

Today                      **Communion Sunday:**  
 8:00 am    Peace **WORSHIP** in Mission  
 9:30 am    Grace **SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE CLASS** in Valentine  
 10:30 am    Grace **WORSHIP** in Valentine  
 5:00 pm    Catechism Class in White River  
 6:00 pm    St. Paul's **BIBLE CLASS/SUN. SCHOOL** in White River

Grace School Christmas Break (No School Dec. 24-Jan 6.)

**12/24**    2:00 pm    Christmas **WORSHIP** in White River\*  
 6:00 pm    Christmas Eve **CHILDREN'S SERVICE** in Valentine

**12/25**    9:00 am    Christmas **WORSHIP** in Mission\*  
 10:30 am    Christmas **WORSHIP** in Valentine\*



**12/28**    10:30 am    Grace **WORSHIP** in Valentine  
 4:00 pm    Peace **WORSHIP** in White River

**12/31**    7:00 pm    Tri-Parish New Year's Eve **WORSHIP** in Valentine

\*Same service

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS** happens every Sunday at 9:30 am in Valentine, and repeats at **4:00 pm in White River (NEW TIME UP NORTH!)**. Today we're finishing the book of **Malachi (4 of 4)**. See last week's bulletin for more details.

**2026 CLC MISSION HELPER TRIP:** The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC-Tanzania, CLC-Kenya, CLC-Zambia, and CLC-Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org).

**WHITEWATER WINTER CAMP**

**2026:** This is for Young adults, High School thru 2<sup>nd</sup> year of college. Pastor Caleb will be serving as one of the chaperones this year. Camp happens Fri-Sun, January 23-25. Cost will be around \$83 per camper. See the December 14 Grace bulletin for more details.



**SALT+LIGHT SERMONS PODCAST:** Each week our services are live-streamed to Grace Church's YouTube Channel. This is a great resource to use when you are unable to attend worship in person. In addition to this resource, the Salt+Light Sermons Podcast is a "weekly audio sermon archive". Search for "Salt + Light Sermons Caleb Schaller" on your podcast platform (Spotify, iTunes, Amazon Podcast, YouTube), or follow this link to Spotify podcast... <https://tinyurl.com/saltandlightsermons>

**CLC CALL NEWS:** Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has **received** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck has **accepted** the call to serve as Assistant to the Pastor at Berea Ev. Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN. <> Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has **received** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Dave Naumann of St. John's Lutheran Church, Clarkston, WA, and Peace Lutheran Church, Orofino, ID, has **returned** the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Terrel Kesterson of Ascension Lutheran Church, Batavia, IL, has **returned** the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Emeritus Michael Eichstadt has **accepted** the vacancy call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has **received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

**MUSICIANS:** Carol Ahrens, Jeanie Hoffman, Stephen Krause, Anna Maas, Louise Mayhew. **VIDEOGRAPHERS:** Dale Bernthal; David Maas.

**LAST SUNDAY (12/14):** 55 in attendance. **OFFERING:** \$2,091 (General) + \$1,445 (School Tuition) + \$175 (Debt Retirement) + \$200 = \$3,911 **MIDWEEK SERVICE (12/17):** 40 in attendance. **OFFERING:** \$425 (General) + \$50 (Debt Retirement) + \$200 (School Advertisement) = \$675

**CONGREGATION CHAIRMAN:** Dale Bernthal ..... 402-322-9063

**ELDERS:** Jerry Sharp, Dan Morrison, Burnell Nieuwenhuis

**SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:** Andrew Roehl (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)..... 715-544-7555

**TEACHERS:** Louise Mayhew (History), Stephen Krause (3rd-5th), Noah Ohlmann (1st-3rd), Candice Ohlmann (PreK-1<sup>st</sup>)

**SYNOD AFFILIATION:** Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) [clclutheran.org](http://clclutheran.org)



**Grace Lutheran Church and School**

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[valentinelutheran.com](http://valentinelutheran.com)