

# Christmas Lessons & Carols December 31, 2023—10am



## Grace Lutheran Church

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[www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org](http://www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org)



<https://linktr.ee/gracelutheran>

Pastor—The Rev. Leslie D. Weber (she/her/hers)  
Minister of Music—Morgan Hatfield (they/she)

### **Our Mission Statement:**

We are a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.

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Page numbers (p.) are in front half of the hymnal.  
Hymn numbers (#) are in back half of the hymnal.  
Everyone is invited to join in **bolded responses**.  
+ Please stand as you are able.

### + Gathering +

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### Prelude

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light” arr. Cindy Berry

#### + Gathering Song

“Here I am to Worship”

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see. Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

**Refrain:** Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
here I am to say that You're my God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above. Humbly You came to the earth You created, all for love's sake became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross. And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

Tim Hughes © 2000 Thankyou Music

#### + Dialogue

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

**By day and night he shines for all to see.**

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

**that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

**so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

Jesus is the light of the world.

**Jesus is the light of our lives.**

Sing to God a new song!

**A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

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### + Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. **Amen.**

### +Word+

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

<b>First Reading</b>	Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18
<b>First Carol</b>	ELW #280
<b>Second Reading</b>	Micah 5:2-5a
<b>Second Carol</b>	ELW #269
<b>Third Reading</b>	Luke 1:26-35, 38
<b>Third Carol</b>	ELW #272
<b>Fourth Reading</b>	Matthew 1:18-25
<b>Fourth Carol</b>	ELW #297
<b>Fifth Reading</b>	Luke 2:8-20
<b>Fifth Carol</b>	ELW #273
<b>Sixth Reading</b>	Matthew 2:1-11
<b>Sixth Carol</b>	ELW #296
<b>Seventh Reading</b>	John 1:1-14
<b>Seventh Carol</b>	ELW #292

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**+ Responsive Prayer**

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth. **Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**  
In his light, draw all to the manger **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**  
In his light, draw all to the manger **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**  
In his light, draw all to the manger **to sing for joy with the angels.**  
In the brightness of his life  
**cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**  
It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.  
**In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.**

**+ Peace**

**+Meal+**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**Offering**

*Thank you for supporting the mission of the church as you are able!*

*Electronic donations can be made at*

*<https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=622d08be-6865-11ee-90fc-1260ab546d11>.*



**+ Offering Prayer**

**+ Great Thanksgiving**

ELW p.107

**+ Thanksgiving at the Table**

**+ Lord's Prayer**

ELW p.112

**+ Invitation to Communion**

**Notes about Communion Distribution at Grace**

*When we're gathered around the table, there is enough food, drink, blessing, space and time for all to share in Holy Communion! GLC practices Eucharistic hospitality since we trust that God welcomes all who come to the table where Christ is both host and meal.*

*Wine (red) and grape juice (white) are distributed in individual cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

*If you prefer to stay in the pew, there are prepackaged kits (wine, juice, and gluten free options) available at the sanctuary doors. If you prefer not to receive the wafer and wine/grape juice, you may kneel or stand at the rail with arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing.*

Distribution Song

ELW #483

**+ Sending +**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**+ Blessing**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

**Praise God, all creatures here below!**

You are the shepherds telling the story.

**We tell it in the streets and across the land.**

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

**We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**

You are the angels announcing peace.

**We live with joy and go now in peace.**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**+ Sending Song**

“Good News”

**Refrain:** Good News! There has been a Savior born.  
Good News! That is why we sing.  
Good News! Dancing through the centuries.  
Good News! Changing ev'rything.

Hear the cries, hear the sighs, hear the whys? unspoken. Feel the blame, feel the shame, and all the pain of being lost and broken.

See the might, see the fright, see the light for living. Know the one, know the Son, and what's been done to set us free for giving.

Larry Olson © 1993 Dakota Road Music

**+ Dismissal**

Glory to God in the highest! **Peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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