

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023 ♦ 9:00 am



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE OF GOD

Whoever you are, wherever you have come from, whatever you believe, you are welcome here. God welcomes ALL to receive his love and know his grace. That is what we celebrate in our gathering together here at Grace of God. If you are new here, we invite you to participate in our worship that includes the singing of hymns and songs, the reading of Scripture, and hearing God's love proclaimed. We celebrate the Lord's Supper (Communion) every Sunday. We believe in this eating and drinking Christ is really present for us and we receive the gift of God's love in his body and blood. We are glad you are with us today and look forward to meeting you and knowing you better.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request you would like included aloud in our prayers this morning, you may fill out a grey card and place it in the offering plate before worship.



GRACE OF GOD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We begin our worship acknowledging that we are broken sinners loved and forgiven by God. We confess our sins and receive God's grace and forgiveness because of what Jesus has done for us. We begin with the sign of the cross and the name of the Trinity that was placed on us in baptism.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism

P In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Have mercy on us, O God.

**C We confess that we have sinned against you
and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables
and have turned away the stranger.**

**We have sought glory for ourselves
and have treasured that which does not satisfy.**

**Help us to love as you love,
to welcome those you send,
and to treasure mercy and justice.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways,
and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

P God, who makes all things new,
forgives your sins for ✙ Jesus' sake
and remembers them no more.
Lift up your heads and your hearts.
Yours is the kingdom of God.

C Amen.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

We begin worship as a gathered community by praising God in song.

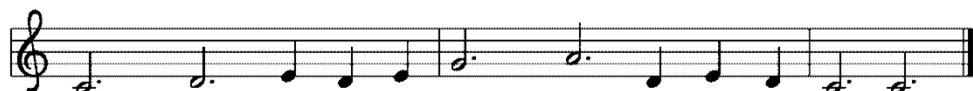
“Praise and Thanksgiving”



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

GREETING

This Trinitarian greeting is from one of Paul's letters to the early church.

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A And also with you.

KYRIE

Kyrie, eleison means “O Lord, have mercy.” It is an ancient and all-inclusive prayer. When we have God's mercy we have everything we need.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of

God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and

praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

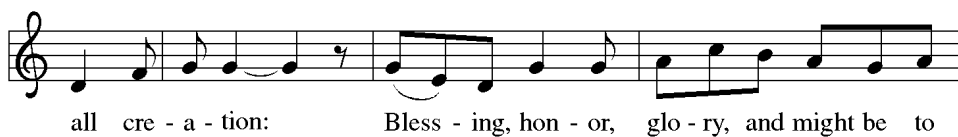
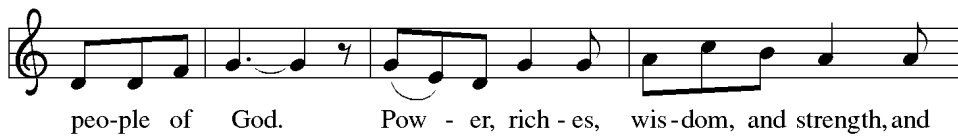
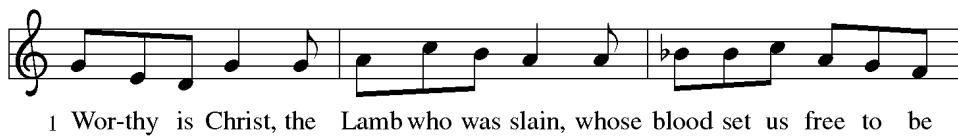
HYMN OF PRAISE

The hymn of praise, taken directly from the songs of angels in Scripture, centers our service on the God we gather to praise in our worship.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The prayer or “collect” of the day, appointed for each Sunday, “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the character of God as revealed in the Scriptures for the day.

P Let us pray.

All Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Now we listen to God’s Word which reveals law and Gospel to us and ultimately leads us to Christ – the Word made flesh.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

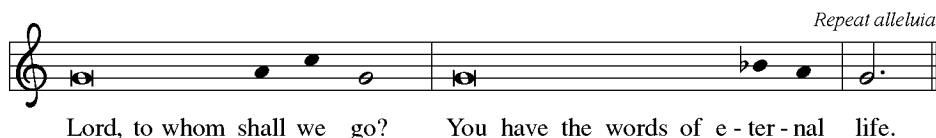
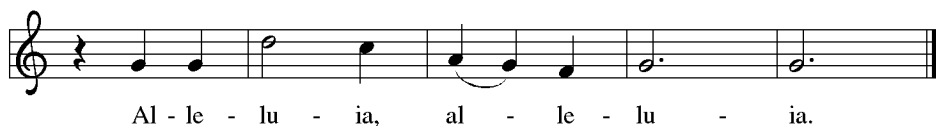
L Word of God, Word of Life.

All Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

ALLELUIA VERSE

This brief acclamation expresses our joy at hearing the words of Jesus who alone has words of life. We stand to honor Jesus’ living presence among us.



HOLY GOSPEL

This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. This is the main reading of the day because of the primary importance of Jesus' words and actions

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN

“O Christ the Same”

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es,
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide,
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main,

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
 the marks of love, in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en,
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies, and set the stars a - blaze,
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing pow'r,
 for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en,
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: RED HILL ROAD, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

The words “creed” comes from the Latin “credo” for “I believe.” The Apostles’ Creed is the oldest statement of faith based on the teachings of the apostles. The Nicene Creed was formulated in the fourth century at the Council of Nicea and reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship among the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: the Holy Trinity.

AI I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

This ancient practice is a sign of our unity and reconciliation in Christ and prepares us to receive the Lord’s Supper. “Peace be with you” are the words the Risen Jesus himself used when he greeted the disciples on the first Easter night. The gift of peace we receive from Christ we share with each other as we share a common life. Handshakes, hugs, kisses are all appropriate signs of peace. “No-contact” alternatives include putting put your hand on your heart and extending your hand to the other person as you say the words without physical contact.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

PRESENTATION OF OUR PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS

Everything we have belongs to God and we give back to him a token of our thanks and praise. We present our gifts to God – those brought to worship today as well as offerings made online. We also present requests for prayers to be offered aloud in our prayers today. You may fill out a card and place it in the offering plate before worship.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P God of mercy and grace,

AI the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen

PRAYERS

(Response to each petition)

P God, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Having confessed our sins, listened to the Word of God and affirmed our faith, we are ready to experience the miracle of Holy Communion.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In this "Praise and Thanksgiving" we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: Thank God and recall what God has done for us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

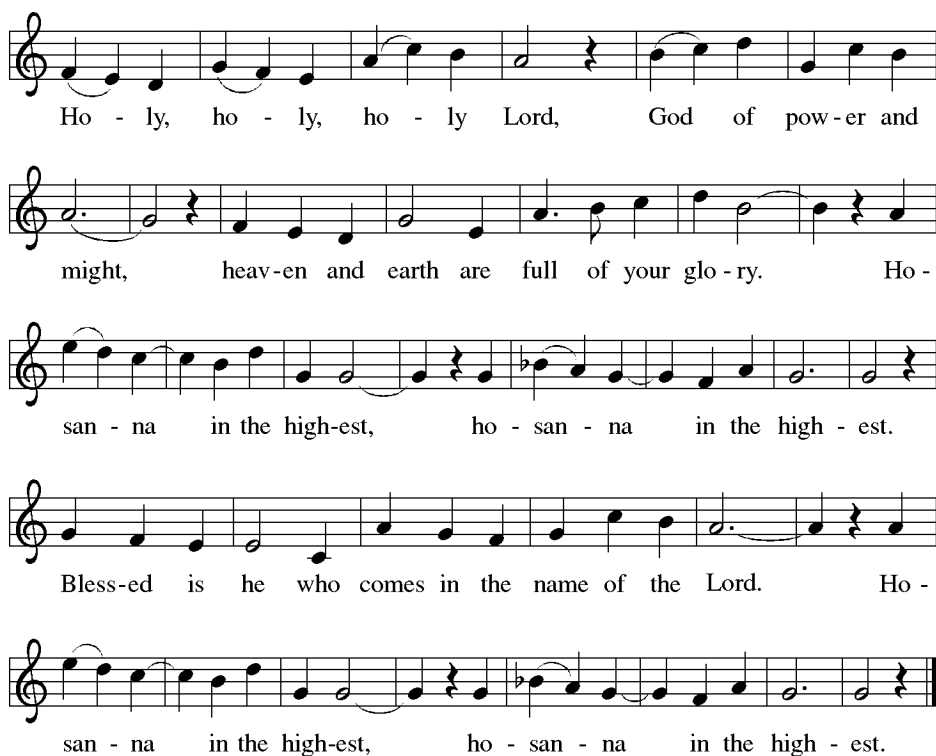
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior, Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

The Sanctus ("Holy, holy, holy") is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God and is based on Isaiah 6:3. This song is coupled with the song of praise of those in Jerusalem who waved palm branches to welcome Jesus into the city the week before he died.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

These are the words of Jesus when he gathered with his disciples the night before he died. In this, his last will and testament, he gives his own body and blood as a gift of love

LORD'S PRAYER

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread the spiritual food we receive in Holy Communion is an ancient connection.

A 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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

P Welcome to the Lord's Table.

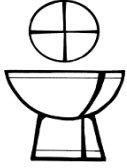
AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei means "Lamb of God." These are the words of John the Baptist who introduced Jesus to his disciples with these words. The imagery is from the Old Testament Passover lamb who was sacrificed for the life and freedom of God's people.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION



Scripture says, "Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* says, "Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and drink." All baptized Christians who desire to receive the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins are invited to the Lord's Table today. Children who have not received their first communion are invited to come to the table and receive a blessing.

- As you approach the altar down the aisle, receive an empty cup from the cart. (non-alcoholic wine is offered in pre-filled cups for those who cannot drink alcohol. These cups are marked in the rack.)
- Maintain physical distance in line.
- Receive the bread (Gluten-free/dairy-free/nut-free wafers are offered)
- Proceed to the right to receive the wine.
- As you return to your seat, place your cup in the rack on the table to your right.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

"We are An Offering" (sing twice)

A musical score for the song "We are An Offering". It consists of eight staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. The song is designed to be sung twice.

We lift our voice - es, we lift our hands, we lift our
lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-es, Lord, use our
hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we
give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voice - es, we lift our hands, we lift our
lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles
Music: OFFERING, Dwight Liles

“Take, oh Take Me As I Am” (repeat ad lib.)

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The image shows a musical score for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in a key of three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The Soprano part is on a treble clef staff, and the Bass part is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the lyrics 'Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;'. The second line of music corresponds to the lyrics 'set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.'.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
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SENDING

Having been fed and nurtured at the Lord's Table, we are sent to be God's living presence in the world.

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep us in his grace.

All Amen

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

BLESSING

We receive the blessing of God who goes with us into the ordinary of daily life.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

All Amen

P Go in peace. Christ lives in you.

All Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

ALL ARE INVITED FOR COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS AFTER WORSHIP TODAY

grace happens

November 12 - 19, 2023

Sunday, November 19 _____

9:00 am PENTECOST 25
10:15 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study

Monday, November 20 _____

7:00 pm Board of Directors' Meeting

Tuesday, November 21 _____

5 - 7 pm Culvers' Night at Sunray Culvers
7:00 pm GriefShare

Wednesday, November 22 _____

7:00 pm THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Thursday, November 16 _____

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Sunday, November 19 _____

9:00 am PENTECOST 25
10:15 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Wednesday, November 22
at 7:00 pm

THANKSGIVING EVE FOOD COLLECTION

This year the White Bear Area Food Shelf will receive our donations! They have provided us with a **'Most Wanted' Food Shelf items** – baking items! Their requested list is available in the narthex. Please take one with you and add items to your shopping list. It would be most helpful to the food shelf if we stay true to their list due to storage space. We will deliver all the donations on **Wednesday, November 29th**.

Cooking oils, sugar, flour, peanut butter, cinnamon, vanilla extract, baking mixes, frosting and baking ships!

Let's help! Holiday Hope 2023

This year our congregation will be sponsoring individuals and families in support of Holiday Hope.

Each year Community Thread's Holiday Hope program with the help of volunteers and sponsors, provides a holiday meal and gifts to families and individuals experiencing financial hardship during the holiday season.

Holiday Hope serves those who live within the following communities: Afton, Bayport, Baytown Township, Grant, Lake Elmo, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Landfall, Marine on St. Croix, Oakdale, Oak Park Heights, St. Mary's Point, St. Croix Beach, Stillwater, West Lakeland Township, Withrow, and Woodbury during the holiday season. In 2022, this program helped 3,188 individuals (including 1,793 children) right here in our local communities, and they anticipate serving even more people in 2023.



community thread

Here's what you can do to help: Beginning November 12 choose a tag or several tags from the gift tree located in the fellowship area. Purchase the gift card indicated on the tag. No need to wrap gift cards. Attach the tag to the gift card and place it in the basket located next to the gift tree. Consider purchasing gift cards from Rick Dinesen using the church SCRIP program. **Important! Bring your gift(s) to the church no later than Sunday, December 3!**

If you have any questions reach out to Audrey Gilman. aggilman@comcast.net or 651-260-4529.



BETHLEHEM EXPERIENCE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023 4-6 pm

SET UP DAY – Thursday, 11/30

On **Thursday, November 30th**, we will begin to transform our space for the Bethlehem Experience. Starting at noon, many hands and feet are needed to change from our time to a peek into life at Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth. Please come and help! There will be plenty to accomplish! Kitchen Team, we will set up the Christmas Café during that time, as well. There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering area to let us know your availability. Thank You!!



IMAGO DEI
THE IMAGE OF GOD

Advent Evening Prayer

December 6, 13 and 20 at 7 pm
Supper at 5:30 pm

wherever you are on your search, you are always welcome at



GRACE OF GOD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Jon Marxhausen, Pastor
