

## PRESENTATION OF CHRIST FEBRUARY 2, 2025

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS

***Welcome to worship! We are a congregation with a long history of loving God and serving our neighbors. We welcome and celebrate all of you, including race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, age, and family.***

***We welcome you to share fellowship with us in your joys and struggles. If you hunger for a good meal, a bag of groceries, the bread of communion, an opportunity to serve your neighbors, or a welcoming church home, there is a place for you at Grace!***

When you see this symbol ✠ you're invited to stand as you are able.

**We love to sing!** When music and words are not printed in the bulletin, you can find the song in the red hymnal underneath the chairs at the page number listed.

**Children belong in worship!** We recognize that children aren't wired to "sit still" for an hour, so we welcome their quiet movement, joyous singing, and encourage their involvement in worship. Children of any age may pick out a book, toy, or art supplies in the Commons for use during the service.

**Help love reach beyond these walls.** You can give online at [gracnempls.org/give](https://gracnempls.org/give) or scan the code at the right. You can also place your offering in the plate as you come up for communion (envelopes are on the cart in the Commons).



**All are welcome at Jesus' table to receive holy communion.** We set the table with wheat bread, gluten-free crackers, white grape juice, and red wine.

**Join us for fellowship time!** All are invited to stay after worship for coffee, treats, and community connection in the Multi-Purpose Room.

**Stay connected to what's happening at Grace:** sign up for our weekly online newsletter, "The Scroll." Find the latest editions and the link to subscribe on our home page at [gracnempls.org](https://gracnempls.org).

**Two single-stall and wheelchair-accessible restrooms** are just outside the sanctuary in the Commons, and another one is down the hallway across from the gym.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ HYMN

*All Are Welcome*  
*Verses 1, 3, & 5*

**#641**

*One in Christ, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*



Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;



Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.

Almighty God,  
by the power of your Spirit you knit together  
many members into one body, the body of Christ.

**We confess that we treat  
some members of the body as more valuable.  
We act as though we have no need of others.  
We forget that Jesus Christ is our head.  
Have mercy on us, O God.**

**Through the reconciling grace of Christ,  
transform our fragmented lives into of mosaic of faith,  
weave our voices into a harmony of hope,  
make us your beloved community,  
sharing love to all creation. Amen.**



*Christ, our peace,  
you break down the walls that divide us.*

*Christ, our peace,  
come, make us one body in you.*

## ASSURANCE & PEACE

In Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!  
The Spirit activates in you gifts for the common good.  
God's grace toward you is not in vain.  
As Christ's body, let us live in love. **Amen.**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of peace with others as you are comfortable. When the hymn of praise begins, you may return to your seats and remain standing.*

### ✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

ACS 1087

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
2 World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
World with - out end, . . . . . with - out end. A - men.

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be. A - men.

### OBJECT LESSON

*Any children who are interested and comfortable are invited to come forward for a reflection and short prayer. Parents and guardians are welcome too!*



**✠ GOSPEL CHANT***ACS 1087**Let us rise to greet the gift of the Gospel!*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia - ! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be. A - men.

**✠ GOSPEL READING***Luke 2:22-40*

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Torah, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. It's written in the Torah, "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord." They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what's stated in the Torah, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Torah. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, "Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, because my eyes have seen your salvation."

“You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. It’s a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel.”

Jesus’ father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

This is the Good News.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

✠ HYMN

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

#726



# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACS 1075

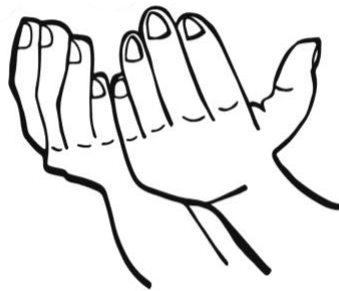
*The psalmist sang: "As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God" (Ps 42:1). Let us call out to God on behalf of creation, community, and our deepest longings.*

O God, we call, O God, we call, from  
deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn, from  
deep in - side we yearn for you.

The musical score consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff of each system. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

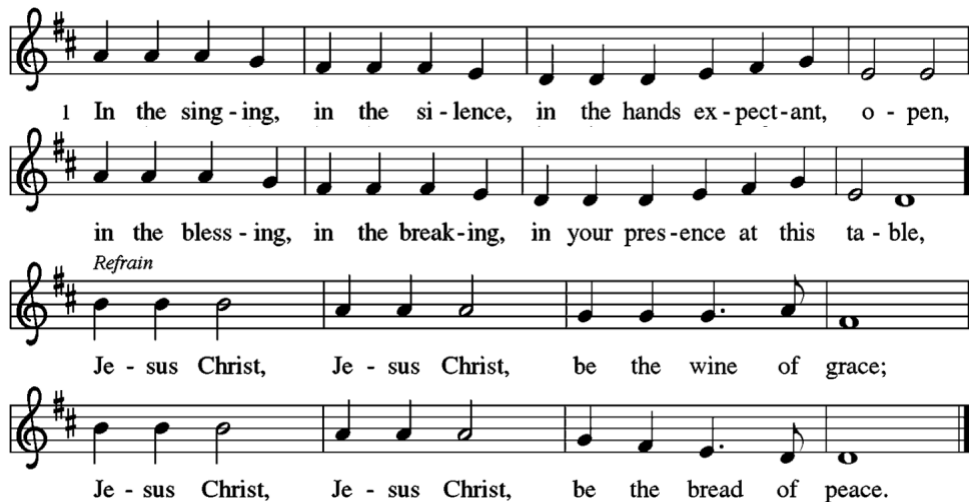
## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*Let us offer our lives to God. You can give online at [gracenempls.org/give](http://gracenempls.org/give) or scan the code at the right. You can also place your offering in the plate as you come up for communion.*



## ✠ COMMUNION: SINGING THE STORY

#466



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - spect - ant, o - pen,  
in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,  
*Refrain*  
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;  
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Christ broke bread among disciples,  
sharing with them as he said:

“Take and eat, this is my body, given for you to be fed.”

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;  
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

“This cup too is full of promise;  
drink it and remember me;

A new covenant I offer for all people to be free.”  
**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;  
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

## ✠ COMMUNION: PRAYER

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

*Echo each acclamation of praise as you are invited:*

We praise you, O God! **We praise you, O God!**  
We bless you, O God! **We bless you, O God!**  
We thank you, O God! **We thank you, O God!**



Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray...  
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**  
**Your kingdom come.**  
**Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**  
**now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION: SHARING THE MEAL

May the meal we share truly be a communion  
with our Savior, with each other,  
and with Christ's body in every time and place. **Amen.**

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. If you wish to receive, ushers will invite you forward. The pastor will place a piece of bread or a gluten-free cracker in your cupped hand as you hear "Body of Christ, given for you." In the brass trays are cups of red wine or golden grape juice. Take a small cup as you hear, "Cup of Christ, given for you." You may respond with "Amen," "Thank you," or with quiet acceptance.*

*If you cannot come forward but wish to receive communion or a blessing, please let an usher know and the servers will come to you. If for any reason you do not wish to receive, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing with your arms crossed over your chest.*

*As we celebrate Communion, you may join in singing:*

HYMN **O Lamb of God** ACS Setting 11

O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the  
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us. *Repeat*



O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the  
 sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up -  
 on us, have . . . mer - cy up - on us.  
 Grant us your peace. A - men.

HYMN

*I Come with Joy*

#482

HYMN

*At Last, Lord*

#203

✠ POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Now may the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray: **Thank you, loving God, for nourishing us with Christ's life. As you have strengthened us for service, send us in your Spirit's power to share food and seek freedom with our neighbors; in the name of Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.**

✠ BENEDECTION

*On this day when we join Anna and Simeon in hailing the dawn of salvation, God blesses the body of Christ to be light for the world.*

*As we prepare to be sent forth, light your candle with the offered flame.*

May God who called forth light from darkness make us a flame of courage.

**Let our lives shine with Christ's light!**

May God who led the enslaved by a pillar of fire make us a beacon of hope.

**Let our lives shine with Christ's light!**

May God who burns against hate and injustice  
make us a bonfire of love.

**Let our lives shine with Christ's light!**

Arise, shine, for the blessing of God,  
Creator, Christ, and Comforter,  
dawns on you, this day and always. **Amen.**

✠ HYMN

*This Little Light of Mine*

#677

✠ SENDING

Go in peace. Live in love.  
**We will. Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

*All are welcome to remain in the sanctuary  
for a special congregational meeting to call a new pastor.*

#### SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

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**ELCA • LGBTQ+ Affirming**

**Worship with us Sundays at 10 AM**

**1500 6<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413 • 612-788-2444**

**[www.gracenempls.org](http://www.gracenempls.org)**

**We are called**  
to love God,  
serve neighbors, and  
tell the story of Jesus Christ,  
welcoming all.



**Help love reach  
beyond these walls.**  
Scan this QR code  
with your phone's  
camera app  
to give online.

**We're the home of  
Little Kitchen Food Shelf,**  
a no-boundaries, no-restrictions  
food shelf serving all people.

**Little Kitchen  
FoodShelf** 

**Interested in volunteering?**

Find opportunities to serve at [gracenempls.org/foodshelf](http://gracenempls.org/foodshelf)  
or email Lynn Mena at [admin@gracenempls.org](mailto:admin@gracenempls.org)

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