



Grace Lutheran & Providence Valley Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 27th, 2020

9:00am on 92.1Fm Radio | gracedawson.org | pvlchurch.org

First Sunday of Christmas

Kendall L. Stelter, Pastor ~ Stephanie Gossett, Intern Pastor ~ Emily Stelter, Membership Care Director ~ Tammy Wager, Youth Director

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who comes to wake us from sleep who leads us into the light of grace. **C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

HYMN

“Love Has Come”

Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it. Hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is born! Come share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of His mother. What is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come, He never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

*THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.*

The Word

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I 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.¹¹ For 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 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.² The 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.³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

RESPONSE L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together!¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

RESPONSE L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING

Galatians 4: 4-7

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

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

RESPONSE **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two

young pigeons.”²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; ^[a] this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ^[b] ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon^[c] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon^[d] took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant^[e] in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon^[f] 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 ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna^[g] 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, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child^[h] to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

THE SERMON

“I Will Not Keep Silent”

“At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all...” Luke 2:38

“How Many Kings”

**Follow the star to a place unexpected would you believe, after all we've projected
A child in a manger? Lowly and small, the weakest of all Unlikeliest hero, wrapped in his mother's
shawl. Just a child is this who we've waited for?**

'Cause how many kings step down from their thrones

**How many lords have abandoned their homes? How many greats have become the least for me?
And how many gods have poured out their hearts. To romance a world that is torn all apart?
How many fathers gave up their sons for me?**

**Bringing our gifts for the newborn Savior. All that we have, whether costly or meek because we believe
Gold for his honor, and frankincense for his pleasure and myrrh for the cross He will suffer Do you
believe? Is this who we've waited for? (Refrain)**

**Only one did that for me
All for me, all for you**

The Apostles' Creed

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession *After each petition, please respond with "Your steadfast love, oh Lord, reaches the heavens; your faithfulness to the clouds."*

The Offering

*The Offertory Song ***"Welcome to our World"*** *Soloist: Chris Lehne*

*The Thanksgiving for the Word

P: Through Jesus Christ your word. **C: Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

C: 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.

The Blessing

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. The God of grace bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sending Song ***"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"***

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!**

The Online & Radio Broadcasts are sponsored by Woody & Diane Peet

The Paschal Candle and Altar Tree Decorations are in memory of Marjorie Vane from Donn & Sue Mork.

The Christmas Trees by the altar are given in memory of Sam Olson by Curt and Sharon Johnsrud and Woody and Diane Peet.

The Christmas Tree in the baptismal area is given in memory of Jordan Martinson from Mike and Kim Thompson and Family.

The Christmas Tree in the narthex is given in memory of Rueben & Ethelyn Johnsrud from Curt and Sharon Johnsrud.

The Christmas Tree in the north entry is given by Keith and Gail Nelson in honor of the grandchildren & great-grandchildren.

The Outdoor Christmas Tree is given in memory of Dwight, Alta, and Sutton Roesch from Nathan and Jesi Martinson and Family.

The White Advent Poinsettias are given in memory of our mothers, RoseMarie Nack & Connie Stelter, from Kendall & Emily Stelter.

The Christmas Cross hanging outside is in memory of Troy Ellefson and Tami (Ellefson) Schulenberg from Ross, Teresa, Troy's Goddaughter Megan, and Tami's Godson Matt Lynne.

Prayers

We offer up prayers for...

Long term prayer support:

Jim Anderson, Pat Saltness, Olivia Baldwin, Tom Beals, Ken Club, Jack Flayton, Monica Kennedy, Brad Madsen, Lauren Thoen, Bonnie Westfield, Jeff Moe, Julie Miron, Deb Lewis, Butch Anderson, Sarah Anderson, Sharla Kruger, Kenneth Paradis, Sam Maass,

Providence Church Long term prayer support:

Jon Lund, Arlys Buer, Evelyn Lundgren, Madeline & Wilton Gustafson,

Prayers for recovered health: *Ken & Carol Erp, Lorraine Bakken, Jim Bakken, Phyllis Lund, John Roiger, John Perry Peterson, Mary Schommer, Eloise Ronning, Brett Stratmoen, Joey Anderson-Urness, Lorraine Madsen, Ames Wager, Tammy & Jon Wager, & Scarlett Ludvigson*

Sympathy to the Families of:

Ginny Boraas, Bob Twete, Todd Buer, & Elnore Bergeson

Worship Participants

Pastor: *Kendall L. Stelter*

Intern Pastor: *Stephanie Gossett*

Organist/Pianist: *Chris Lehne*

Praise Team: *Jon Wager, Avery Gilman, Stephanie Gossett, Hailey Gritmacker*

Special Music: *Chris Lehne*

Reminder: 92.1FM Worship Broadcast moved to 9:00am

This Week at Grace & Providence Valley: December 27th – January 3rd

Sunday, December 27th

9:00am KLQP 92.1FM Radio & Online Broadcast Worship Service

Wednesday, December 30th

2:00pm Ch. 8 TV Broadcast

Sunday, January 3rd

9:00am KLQP 92.1FM Radio & Online Broadcast Worship Service

Online & Radio Worship

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in our communities, the decision has been made by Grace & Providence Valley leadership to move to online & radio worship only on Sundays. There will be no in person worship at either church. We offer our continued prayers for the health and safety of our congregation, community, and friends.

“Parking Lot Proclamation”

Thank-you to all of those who helped make the Parking Lot Proclamation a success. Many of you came and beared the chi Thank-you for joining us online, on the radio or in person to celebrate the joyous birth of Jesus.

Worship Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers of all ages to read for our upcoming online worship services. You can record yourself from your home or someone can help you record at the church. Please contact the office if you are able to help with this ministry.

Christmas Poinsettias

Grace Lutheran Youth are offering the opportunity for our members and friends to remember a loved one by giving a Red Christmas Poinsettia in their memory or honor and allowing it to be part of our chancel decorations for the Christmas season. You can place your orders online at gracedawson.org or at the church office. The cost of each plant is \$25 with proceeds going to the 2021 National Youth Gathering expenses. Poinsettia plants may be picked up at the church anytime. Thank you.

Tithes & Offerings

Grace and Providence Valley Lutheran Churches have options to give online! On our websites, gracedawson.org or pvlchruch.org, simply click on the "Give Online" tab at the top of the homepage. Or even easier, download our offering app on your phone! Simply search for "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" in your App Store and set up your account! And Grace Lutheran now has TEXT OFFERING! Simply text your offering amount to 800-675-7430! Offerings can also be mailed to:

Grace Lutheran Church – PO Box 549 - Dawson, Mn 56232 or

Providence Valley Lutheran Church - C/O 2722 100th Street - Dawson, MN 56232

Thank you for your continued support this year, both financially and spiritually.

Effortless Giving!

There are also options for you to give without having to open your pocketbook! When shopping online at Amazon, simply go to "Amazon Smiles" and add Grace Lutheran Church-Dawson MN as your charity. Thrivent Financial members, direct your Choice Dollars to Grace by March 31, 2021. Thrivent Choice Dollars are your share of Thrivent's charitable funding. A portion of all your premiums and contract values grow your amount of Choice Dollars, and you can direct them to Grace Lutheran Church of Dawson, MN or Providence Valley Lutheran Church by logging on to your online account and choosing the "Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars" link under the "My Thrivent" tab. Also under this tab you will find the link for "Thrivent Action Teams" where you can apply for up to two (2) free \$250 grants from Thrivent per calendar year for your favorite charity events. Contact the office for projects needing grants or for help with any of these options.