



The Second Sunday after Christmas
January 5, 2025
9:30 AM

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

7160 South Robert Trail, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
651-455-0093 www.aglcigh.org

Welcome friends in Christ! We're grateful for your presence here in worship today. If you are visiting, please sign the guest book in the entryway.

- Children are welcome to utilize the open space in the back for quiet play during worship.
- Feel free to remain seated at any time during the service.

GATHER:

We gather as people of God, a family of faith.

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Centering Music

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Light of Hope

In the tender compassion of our God,

The dawn from on high shall break upon us.

We celebrate the life of God incarnate that forever changed the world!

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Because you came to us, we have the ultimate hope to confront even the hardest moments.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Because you came to us, we have seen the fullness of love to the highest degree.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Because you came to us, we have seen the face of peace in its purest form.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

This season, we celebrate your birth that unleashes hope, love, peace, and joy into the world from now until the day of your return.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

All four candles are lit.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.

Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

1 Break forth, O beau - teous heav'n - ly light, and ush - er in the morn - ing;
2 All bless - ing, thanks, and praise to thee, Lord Je - sus Christ, be gi - ven;

ye shep - herds, shrink not with af - fright, but hear the an - gel's warn - ing.
thou hast our broth - er deigned to be, our foes in sun - der riv - en.

This child, now weak in in - fan - cy, our con - fi - dence and joy shall be,
Oh, grant us through our day of grace with con - stant praise to seek thy face;

13
the pow'r of Sa - tan break - ing, our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing.
grant us ere long in glo - ry with prais - es to a - dore thee.

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,

you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GROW:

We grow as we are fed by the Word and nourished at the Lord's table.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had

believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Preparation to Receive the Gospel: Signs and Wonders

ELW 672

Signs and Wonders



- 1 Signs and won - ders lead the danc - ing from the heart God frees from fear:
- 2 Hope and free - dom join the cir - cle: Mar - y to the gar - den came,
- 3 Cast a - side all fear and hid - ing; hand in hand we dance the round.



wings of an - gels greet the mai - den, and God finds a dwell - ing here;
saw the ra - dian - ce of the mar - vel, heard the Ris - en call her name;
God is with us, Christ, a - bid - ing, and the Spir - it's gifts a - bound.



bold - ly may we lift our hands, bow the head, and voice A - men;
bold - ly may we heed Christ's call, step be - yond the gar - den wall:
Called by God to ho - li - ness, let us bold - ly serve and bless;



thus does glo - ry shine at mid - night: o - pen hearts in - vite the star - light.
beau - ti - ful the feet pro - ceed - ing with good news of death's de - feat - ing.
and to hearts that sigh and hun - ger may our lives dance signs and won - ders.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

All the ends of the earth

have seen the victory of our God!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: John 1:10-18

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Message

Pastor Tim Maybee

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW 295

Of the Father's Love Begotten



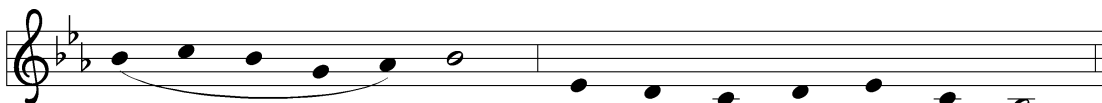
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite
Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

There's a Star in the East



- 1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.
 2 If you take good heed to the an-gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.
 You'll for-get your flocks, you'll for-get your herds, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

Refrain

Fol - low, fol - low, rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.



Fol-low the star of Beth-le - hem, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: RISE UP, SHEPHERD, African American spiritual

We Three Kings of Orient Are

We Three Kings of Orient Are



- | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------------|--------|------------|
| 1 | We | three | kings | of | O - ri - ent | are; | bear - ing |
| 2 | Born | a | king | on | Beth - le - hem's | plain, | gold I |
| 3 | Frank - in - cense | to | of - fer | have | I; | | in - cense |
| 4 | Myrrh is mine; | its | bit - ter | per - fume | | | breathes a |
| 5 | Glo - rious now | be - hold | him | a - rise, | | | King and |



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Refrain
Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.
Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

Confession of Faith

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

Following each petition, the presider will say, “God of grace,”
and the congregation will respond, “**receive our prayer.**”

... We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all,
through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ incarnate be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

AGLC gives in the style of our Tanzanian partners. You may place any gift in the basket as you come forward for communion. If you don't have a physical gift to share, you are encouraged to dip your hand in the basket as a reminder that God uses you to do God's work in the world.

Offering Song: Love Has Come (*Verses 1-2*)

ELW 292

Love Has Come



- 1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
- 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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Offering Prayer

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We sing a new song to you, O God of our salvation, for you have done marvelous things. Since the beginning of time, you have spoken your Word, and your light shines in our shadows.

Glory to you, O God!

Your Son rules in truth and justice, victorious and merciful is he! We praise your majesty lying in a manger, Jesus Christ, born of Mary and lauded by angels.

Glory to you, O God!

Send your Spirit on us and on this meal of wonder. In this bread, give us the body of Christ. With this cup, reveal the grace of your risen Son. Make known to the whole earth your steadfast love.

Glory to you, O God!

Sung Words of Institution

Verses 1 & 2: Pastor, Verse 3: All



3. So, we thank You for _ the wine _ and for the bread; _ For we

see the life _ You gave _ and the blood You _ shed. And we re -

-mem - ber Your won - drous _ love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your _

blood; And we re - mem - ber Your won - drous _

love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your _ blood.

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Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

Invitation

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church practices open communion. Whether you are a member of AGLC or not, you are invited to the table that is set by Christ for you.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Distribution

P: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The wine used in worship is alcohol-free. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

Communion Songs: Love Has Come (Verse 3)

ELW 292

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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Word of God, Come Down on Earth



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
 3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
 cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
 world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, sr, b. 1919

Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

Text © James Quinn, sr, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American Agent.

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The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem



1 The hills are bare at Beth - le - hem, no fu - ture for the
 2 The stars are cold at Beth - le - hem, no warmth for those be -
 3 The heart is tired at Beth - le - hem, no hu - man dream un -



world they show; yet here new life be - gins to
 neath the sky; yet here the ra - diant an - gels
 bro - ken stands; yet here God comes to mor - tal



grow, from earth's old dust a green - wood stem.
 fly, and joy burns new, a fi - 'ry gem.
 hands, and hope re - newed cries out: "A - men!"

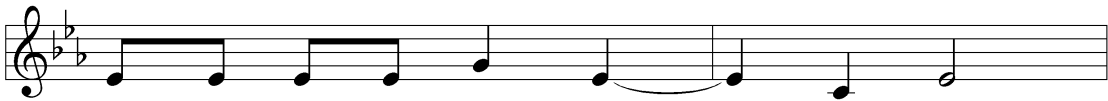
Text: Royce J. Scherf, b. 1929, alt.

Music: PROSPECT, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Mary Had a Baby



1 Mar - y had a ba - by, my Lord;
 2 Where did she lay him, my Lord?
 3 Laid him in a man - ger, my Lord;
 4 What did she name him, my Lord?
 5 Mar - y named him Je - sus, my Lord;



Mar - y had a ba - by, my Lord;
 Where did she lay him, my Lord?
 laid him in a mang - er, my Lord;
 What did she name him, my Lord?
 Mar - y named him Je - sus, my Lord;



Mar - y had a ba - by, Mar - y had a ba - by,
 Where did . . . she lay him, where did . . . she lay him,
 laid him in a man - ger, laid him in a man - ger,
 What did . . . she name him, what did . . . she name him,
 Mar - y named him Je - sus, Mar - y named him Je - sus,



Mar - y had a ba - by, my Lord.
 where did she lay him, my Lord?
 laid him in a man - ger, my Lord.
 what did she name him, my Lord?
 Mar - y named him Je - sus, my Lord.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: MARY HAD A BABY, African American spiritual

Prayer after Communion

Merciful God,

We thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by his goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

Announcements

GO:

We go into the world, sent by God, to serve all people in the name of Jesus.

Benediction

The God of love,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: Let All Together Praise Our God

ELW 287

Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor
4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who
lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:
you take our flesh and blood,
and in return give us to share
the shining realm of God,
the shining realm of God.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561; tr. hymnal version

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman

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6 Unlock the door again today
that leads to paradise;
the angel bars the way no more.
To God let praises rise,
to God let praises rise!

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Dismissal

Go in peace. The word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude