



"Simeon and Anna Say Merry Christmas"

First Sunday of Christmas

December 30, 2018

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

VISIT

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall.

WORSHIP

Today is the 6th Day of Christmas. Together with Simeon and Anna, the church continues praising God in worship and song for the Incarnation. The firstborn Son of God is our redemption from sin and death.

- The Gospel reading tells us Christ has fulfilled the Law in every way from the moment of his birth. Not even the rite of purification and two pigeons are lacking.
- The Old Testament reading gives the background for the rite of purification—God commanded it as a reminder of his salvation through Passover in the Exodus.
- The New Testament reading encourages us to live every day in the peace Christ brought to us, and to praise him as Simeon and Anna did.

ENCOURAGE TODAY, 12/30, AT 9:30 AM

- coffee, hot cocoa, Phyllis Thomforde's famous Swedish Toast, and friendship

STUDY NEXT WEEK, 01/06 at 9:30 AM

- "Ephesians" with Pastor Ekhooff
- "Catechism: The Lord's Supper" with Pastor Ferkenstad
- "A Biblical View of Self-Image" with Pastor Wiechmann
- "The Star of Bethlehem" DVD documentary

THE SERVICE OF THE LUTHERAN CHORALE

The Lutheran choral service began during the Reformation era and took root in those churches where proclaiming the true doctrine of Scripture was of utmost importance. The songs and liturgy in the service proclaim Law & Gospel, tell of our salvation & Christ's victory over death, and they convey the truth of Scripture & are a confession of our faith.

OPENING HYMN

"To Shepherds as They Watched by Night" | #154

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

RESPONSE HYMN

"In Thee Is Gladness" | #149

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ALL: Almighty and merciful God, we thank you for sending your Son to become human like us, so that we might become your children. Make us who trust in Jesus to be more and more like him. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Word

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Samuel 2:18-20,26

But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod. Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD.” Then they would go home. And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 2:10-18

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SERMON HYMN

"Thou Light of Gentile Nations" | #151 v.1-5

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SERMON

Luke 2:22-40

WHEN THE TIME OF THEIR PURIFICATION ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF MOSES had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair

of doves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

OFFERING

The offering is given by the members of King of Grace as a fruit of faith to thank God for how He provides for our earthly needs daily and richly. If you are visiting us today, please do not feel compelled to participate.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P:** Gathered in the name of Jesus and assured of His promised presence, let us call on our heavenly Father for ourselves, for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world, and for all people.
- P:** Heavenly Father, thank you for always taking care of us, and for working everything for our good. Please help us to believe this, and rest secure in your divine wisdom and providence.
- C: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P:** Keep your whole church rigorous in the struggle against sin. Help us to submit to Christ our King, rather than to our old sinful flesh and the false beliefs of the world.
- C: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

- P:** We pray for all who seek your kingdom of grace, dear Father. Reveal it to them, and bring them into it. Help all to see that true spiritual wealth can only be found in you and your eternal blessings for us in Christ.
- C: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P:** Grant wisdom and truth to all who rule our country that they may serve faithfully to promote all that is good and right and to prevent and punish evil.
- C: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P:** Bless our Sunday school, Christian day school, Bible study groups and other gatherings of our people. Keep us always hearing and learning from your word in the Bible and may we encourage one another in our faith by gathering together.
- C: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P:** Heavenly Father, because of your great love you work for our good in all things. In mercy listen to our prayers, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- 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.**

BLESSING

- P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give ☩ you peace.
- C: Amen! Amen! Amen!**

CLOSING HYMN

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing" | #588

King of Grace Special Worship Schedule

Monday, December 31
5:00 PM New Year's Eve Communion Service

CALENDAR

December 30 – January 6

SUNDAY	8:15 AM	Worship Service
	10:45 AM	Worship Service
MONDAY	5:00 PM	New Year's Eve Communion Service
SATURDAY	8:30 AM	Men's Bible Study
SUNDAY	8:15 AM	Communion Service
	9:30 AM	Bible Study/Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Communion Service

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Preacher.....Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ | **Liturgist**.....Rev. Ben Wiechmann
Pianist.....Lynn Handberg

SERVING IN SUPPORT

Counters Today Jennifer & Brian Pederson, Claire Joubert
Counters MondayRandy & Julie Voelker, Paul & Arlene Fuller
Counters Next Sunday Gina Thomforde, Collin Bredeson, Emily Bredeson
Usher Captains Today.....Steve Kopacek, Curtis Merchant
Usher Captain Monday..... Loren Braun
Usher Captains Next SundayBruce Christensen, Brian Pederson
Video Team Today Ben Oppitz
Video Team Monday Warren Pasbrig
Video Team Next Sunday TBD
Coffee Setup Next SundaySopranos & Tenors
Coffee Clean Up Next Sunday..... Board of Trustees
January Altar Guild.....Kathy Reason, Anne Bechtold

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS? Please contact Wanda Warnke at 612-529-1497.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 303 worshiped on Sunday, 468 worshiped on Christmas Eve, and 189 worshiped on Christmas Day.

OFFERING LAST WEEK

Average Needed Per Sunday: \$16,154

Received Last Week: \$40,541

Average Needed Year to Date: \$420,004

Received Year to Date: \$486,583

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are placed in the sanctuary today by David and Susan Nelson in celebration of Lily's baptismal anniversary.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our regular worship service schedule resumes next Sunday, January 6 with worship services at 8:15 and 10:45 AM, and Bible Class and at Sunday School at 9:30 AM. Monday night worship resumes on **Monday, January 7 at 6:30 PM.**

HELP NEEDED TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Helpers are needed on **Wednesday, January 9**, starting at **5:30 PM** to take down all our beautiful Christmas decorations. Snacks will be provided.

WOMEN'S CHOIR

We need another 10-12 women to join our choir for just two practices in order to sing an all women's choir piece at both services on **Sunday, January 13**. We will practice in the sanctuary between services on **Sunday, January 6**, and then we will have a **women-only** choir practice at our normal choir time on **Thursday, January 10 at 7:00 PM**. Please see Allen Labitzky for more information.

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT

King of Grace Lutheran School will be holding a **Kindergarten Information Night** on **Tuesday, January 29, at 6:30 PM**, in the Fellowship Hall. The evening will include an overview of our curriculum, time to explore the school and classroom with your child, and an opportunity to ask questions about our Kindergarten program. We will also have Kindergarten registration information available which includes instructions on how to fill out an application and start the enrollment process for your child. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Walz at awalz@kog-els.org.

HOLIDAY FOOD SHELF DRIVE

The King of Grace Stewardship Committee is championing a food drive through the end of the year. **The need is extra high this holiday season!** Please donate non-perishable food items. **Our running total so far is 1,459 pounds.**

TAKE HOME YOUR POINSETTIA

If you ordered a Christmas poinsettia, please take it home with you today!

