



The Light of Grace

Week 4 — Love

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AS WE GATHER

In this fourth service in The Light of Grace series for Advent, we celebrate that Jesus is the Light of the world who shines on us with his amazing grace, and we focus on the gracious gift of love, exemplified in the life of Mary.

HYMN OF PRAISE**O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU****LSB 334** vs. 1, 4**INVOCATION**

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES*Psalm 37:7a, 34a; Isaiah 30:18*

P Today we light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath, the candle that represents love. God had promised that his steadfast love would not depart from his people. He would remember his covenant promise. Now the time had come for his promise to be fulfilled.

C **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son ..."** *(John 3:16)*

P In his grace, God chose Mary, a virgin in Nazareth of Galilee, to be the mother of our Lord. The virgin-born son would be the Son of God. He was to be named Jesus, which means "God saves."

C **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son ..."**

P The apostle John writes, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9).

C **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God, asking him to remember his covenant love and forgive us for Jesus' sake.

C **Almighty God, your steadfast love endures forever. Our love so often fails. We do not always trust you as we should. We know that you love us, but we do not always love others as we should. We do not walk in love as Jesus our Savior did. We follow our own selfish desires instead of looking to the needs of others. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins.**

P God remembered his covenant promise and in his steadfast love he sent his Son to be our Savior. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C **Almighty God, your steadfast love will not depart from us!**

HYMN

AMAZING GRACE

LSB 744, vs. 1–4

*KYRIE

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

*SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, in your grace and steadfast love, you promised to send the Messiah, the Savior. The promise was repeated through the centuries as the prophets reminded your people of your covenant promise. Finally, when the time was right, you kept your promise. It was time for the Savior to be born. The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of the Messiah. She was to name him Jesus. Your covenant promise was fulfilled in the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself as the sacrifice for the sins of the world. Lead us by your Spirit to walk in love, reflecting our Lord's care and compassion in the world. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 54:7–10

⁷For a brief moment I deserted you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.

⁸In overflowing anger for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,"
says the LORD, your Redeemer.

⁹"This is like the days of Noah to me:
as I swore that the waters of Noah
should no more go over the earth,
so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you,
and will not rebuke you.

¹⁰For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,

but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,"
says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER

LSB 383, vs. 1, 4, 5

EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*VERSE

Matthew 1:23a

P Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
C **and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.**

*HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:46–55

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.
C **Glorify to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

***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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will 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.**

SERMON HYMN

ARISE, O CHRISTIAN PEOPLE!

LSB 354

SERMON

THE LIGHT OF GRACE AND LOVE: MARY

OFFERING

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

After our petitions:

P Our God and Savior,

C **Your steadfast love endures forever.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

***BENEDICTION**

Romans 16:27; Numbers 6:24–26

- P When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,
C **To redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.**
- P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **Amen.**

HYMN TO DEPART

GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD

LSB 374

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Thank you to our musicians

At Christmas time we join our voices with the angels, who proclaimed the good news of Jesus' birth on the first Christmas. Thanks to the following individuals for their musical leadership at TLO during Advent and Christmas: Instrumentalists, Hannah Kroonblawd, Caleb Morris, Tim Morris, and Phil Workman; vocalist, Elizabeth Frick; our faithful cantors, Andy Koch and Dave Workman; pianist, Marsha Workman; and organists, Merlin Simon and Diane Streich. To God alone be the glory!

Serving Our Lord

		December 24, 2023	December 31, 2023
Musician		Merlin Simon	Marsha Workman
Cantor		Andy Koch	Dave Workman
Altar Guild		Nancy Strand & Sharon Drews	Nancy Strand & Sharon Drews
Elder	9:00am	Jim Kohn	Sam Erdman
Reader	9:00am	Jim Kohn	Keith Prusak
Usher Team	9:00am	Gary Sheets	Jon Peterson
Greeter(s)	9:00am	Open	Open
Acolyte	9:00am	Isaac Koch	Open
Projection	9:00am	Jean Peterson	Jean Peterson
Live Stream	9:00am	Jim Nicklas	Jim Nicklas

COMING UP AT TLO — December 24, 2023 — January 31, 2023		
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Sun	9:00*am	Worship
	12:30pm-5:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities
	3:30pm	Christmas Eve Family Worship
	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
Mon	9:00*am	Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion
Tue	church office closed	
	7:00pm	TLO Church Council
Wed	6:30am	Men's Bible study
Thur	6:00-11:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities
Fri	church office closed	
	3:00-11:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities
Sat	2:00-11:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities
FRIST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS		
Sun	9:00*am	Worship with Holy Communion
	12:30pm-5:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities
	6:00pm	Hoops
*worship online at www.trinityloneoak.org		



Joining Jesus as a Family Seminar Saturday, January 20 | 9:00am-12noon

Christian parents want to raise their children to be life-long followers of Jesus, but may ask “What does it mean to ‘disciple’ my own child” and “How can I weave Jesus’ discipleship process into the rhythm of my family’s everyday life?”

Greg and Susan Finke identify what Jesus shows us in the gospels to help parents *become more intentional and practical in raising Jesus-followers.*

This seminar is for anyone helping a child live the fruitful and fulfilling life of a Jesus-follower: parents, grandparents, foster parents, pastors, family ministry professionals and volunteers.



Bring the whole family!
Camp Omega staff will lead our children's programming.
Light breakfast for all attendees is included and offered
from 8:00-9:00am.



\$5 per person (\$20 family max). Register TODAY using the QRC code, go to trinityloneoak.org, or contact the church office. Books (optional) are \$10 each.



“Joining Jesus as a family is simpler than you think and a lot more fun!”
—Greg and Susan Finke



Food for the Poor visits January 7

On January 7 Pastor Bob Weinhold will be returning as our guest preacher from Food for the Poor. Pastor Weinhold was here in January of 2022. He has been speaking for Food for the Poor for over 4 years and enjoys sharing the opportunity that we have as Christians to care for the poorest of the poor in the 17 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America that Food for the Poor serves. He has served in full time parish ministry in the LC-MS for 35 years in five different congregations and has been retired for 5 years. He has three grown children and four grandsons and lives with his wife, Lisa, in Dubuque, Iowa. We pray God's blessings upon the message that he shares with us as God guides us in His response to this tremendous need.



Family Game Night

Friday, January 12 | 6-9pm | TLO Gym

Come for a night of food and fun with your TLO friends. Bring your favorite board game and a cheerful heart. See you there!

Ways to give to Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church and School



Online

Visit trinityloneoak.org/giving and click **Give Now** to set up a one-time or recurring donation, or to make a payment.



Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.



Whether it's cash or check, we appreciate your kindness. Please place your donations in the offering plate as it's passed.

Thank you!

WEEKLY DEPOSITS: December 17, 2023

General Fund Income:			
	Current and Mission Weekly Offering	\$	6,771.69
	(Our offering budget is \$8,525 per week)		
	Building Reserve Fund	\$	1,450.15
	(Our offering budget is \$665 for per week)		
	1883 School Annual Fund	\$	354.02
	Chapel	\$	67.25
	Tuition	\$	2,493.33
	Sunday school	\$	1.75
	Church and school fees	\$	5,267.65
	Subtotal General Fund Income	\$	16,405.84
Special Purpose Income (not available for general fund spending)			
	YTF2	\$	435.45
	Acorn Scholarship Fund	\$	5,025.00
	Young Investors stamps through Lutheran Church Extension Fund	\$	271.00
	Subtotal Special Fund Income	\$	5,731.45

Fiscal Year To Date as of December 17, 2023

Current and Mission:			
	YTD Budgeted Giving (\$8,525.00 per week for 25 weeks)	\$	213,125.00
	YTD Actual Giving	\$	212,369.89
	YTD Difference	\$	-755.11
Building Reserve Fund			
	YTD Budgeted Giving (\$665.00 per week for 25 weeks)	\$	16,625.00
	YTD Actual Giving	\$	15,423.27
	YTD Difference	\$	-1,201.73



2024 directories, calendars, offering envelopes ...these are all waiting for you in the narthex—pick up yours today!



Remember in Prayer

Avianna (age 2), niece of Chelsea Cardenas, battling cancer

Rich and Dixie Cliff

Alice Dornseif, transitioned to Good Samaritan, Stillwater

Ed Jones, father of David Jones and Julie Casby, for peace and comfort as he struggles with dementia

Joseph Labhart (Flannery's grandson) ongoing health concerns

Marilou Larson, close cousin of Alice Dornseif, continue prayers for resolution of autoimmune liver issues

Joyce (Kirchner) Moynihan, diagnosed with cancer

Ryan Kroonblawd - 1st year seminarian - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

LeAnn Peterson, sister of Andrea Hinrichs, recovering from foot surgery and complications

Sharon Phelps, mom of Cindy Rahn, transitioning after a fall

Verna Ratzlaff recovering at home

Stuart Weierke at the Minneapolis VA Home

Shelly Zeitlin and her family need our prayers as she is going through lymphoma cancer treatments.

Shelly is a longtime friend of Rob and Jane Shull.

Laverne and Beverly Ziebell. Our prayers are needed as they navigate day-to-day living



Henry David Blumke was born to Tyler and Kathleen on December 14. Please join in praising God for the new gift of life! *"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb." Ps. 139:13*



Weekly Memory Verse

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. — *Gal. 4:4-5*



Birthdays this week

Dec 24 Ben Swenson

Dec 27 Cheryll Barnes

Dec 29 Elijah Buecksler, Pam Burdick

Anniversaries this week

Dec 30 Jebin and Henipher Joseph



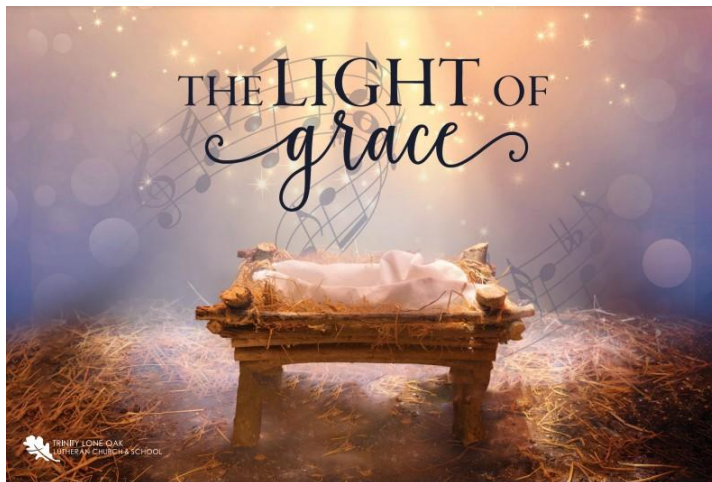
Welcome Guests

We are glad you are here today! Here are a few things we thought you would like to know to help you feel at home with us today. If you are visiting please introduce yourself to our pastor, a greeter or an usher. We love to make new friends!

For those with small children, a nursery is available, located in the narthex, if you need a place to care for your child. Children's bulletins are in the narthex, or ask an usher.

Restrooms are located to the east end of the narthex near the main entrance.

Large print copies of the worship folder are available. Please ask an usher.



Christmas Worship

Join us as we worship The Light of Grace. Postcard invitations in the narthex make it easy to invite a friend or neighbor to worship with you!

- December 24 | 3:30pm | Christmas Eve Family Worship
- December 24 | 7:00*pm | Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
- December 25 | 9:00*am | Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion
- December 31 | 9:00*am | Worship with Holy Communion (note only one Sunday service)

*livestreamed at www.trinityloneoak.org