

WELCOME

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY | LENT | EASTER | TRINITY

To our visitors We are glad you have joined us to share in the gifts of our gracious Lord as we worship Him together in spirit and truth by receiving His Word and Sacraments. We invite you to pick up information and our Wittenberg Way newsletter at our welcome desk. If you have questions concerning the Christian faith or the Lutheran tradition, please let us know as our pastor would love to speak with you.

Children are welcome in our services Grace is a church family and we believe like any family we learn by doing things together. Bulletins are available for children that coincide with the liturgical calendar and scripture readings. We encourage parents to guide their children throughout the service, helping them to learn the language of the faith through the liturgy. A nursery with sound is located in the hallway outside the sanctuary to the right just before the glass door to the courtyard.

Holy Communion Our fellowship in the Lord’s Supper follows the Lutheran tradition grounded in the teaching of Holy Scripture. As one baptized into the Name of our Triune God and confessing the real presence of Christ’s body and blood in the Supper for the forgiveness of sins you are warmly invited to join us around the table for Holy Communion. If you are not communing but wish to be blessed, then simply cross your arms at the rail and you will be blessed by the celebrant.

Giving to Grace

- Your weekly envelopes or those in the pews
- Online from your bank website
- Scan the QR code to the right
- Text the amount to 84321
- On the Grace Giving Page at gracesandiego.com
- Time & Talents - contact Pr. Brian



Please silence cell phones and be mindful of those preparing for worship.

Restrooms are in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

AS WE GATHER

THE DECLARATION OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: The Light of God shines on us tonight.

P: For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

C: The Light of God shines on us tonight.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C: The Light of God shines on us tonight.

Collect:

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when he comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

DIVINE SERVICE - SETTING 1

Still. Still. Still arr. Paul Manz

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Declaration of the Prophet Isaiah

* **Candle Lighting** Ushers will light candles down the aisle. Light your candle and pass it along.

O Come, All Ye Faithful 379

Confession & Absolution (kneel) 151

Kyrie 152

Gloria 154

Salutation and Collect 156

Reading Isaiah 7:10-14

Gradual

Reading 1 John 4:7-16

Alleluia 156

Gospel **Matthew 1:18-25**

Anthem Christmas Song, Parish Choir

Sermon Rev. Brian Thomas

“Christmas for the Spiritual But Not Religious”

Matthew 1:18-25

Nicene Creed 158

Prayer of the Church

Offertory Hymn

Hark the Herald Angels Sing 380

Preface 160

Sanctus 161

The Words of Our Lord 162

Memorial Acclamation (2 x)

Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Lord’s Prayer 162

Pax Domini 163

Agnus Dei 163

Eucharist

Once in Royal David’s City 376

(Congregation sings vs 3,4,5)

Psalm 110:1-4

What Child is This 370

Thank the Lord 164

Post Communion Collect 166

Benediction 166

Silent Night 363

Hallelujah G.F Handel

* **bold indicates standing**

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
Pastor Rev. Brian Thomas
Director of Music Dale Sorenson

SERVING CHRISTMAS EVE AT 6 PM
Elder Jeremy Fullam
Altar Guild Michael Tow
Crucifer Andrew Gertz
Acolytes Peter Gertz
Leopold Fullam
Lector Jeremy Fullam
Cantor Sandi Garcia
Usher John Downey

SERVING CHRISTMAS DAY AT 9 AM
Elder Ted Nilsen
Altar Guild Jack and Judy George
Crucifer Spencer Huntley
Lector Daryl Svensson
Cantor Sandi Garcia
Usher Harold Nichols

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:15-11:15 AM
St. Mark Classroom, Nursery, & Den
Resumes on 1/11/26

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
10:00—11:00 am
St. Mark Classroom
Resumes on 1/14/26

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3967 Park Blvd. San Diego, CA 92103
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget to bring your bells to our Christmas Day service at 9:00am tomorrow.



As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior, we thank God for you and for the joy of gathering together this season. May His peace and hope be with you and your loved ones today and always.

PRAYER LIST

FOR STRENGTH AND HEALING
Dave, Arleen, Eddie, Michelle, Kristi, Mark, Hugo, Jacque, Dave, Phyllis, and Floyd

FOR OUR MISSIONARIES & SEMINARIANS
Rev. Dr. Tardelli Voss, Vicar Rowan Turner, and Vicar William Baker

FOR OUR MILITARY MEMBERS
Rev. Mario Ancira, Hannah Downey, Nathan Farish, Gavin Robillard, Joshua Simmons, and Jeff & Jordan Gruetzmacher *(If you are in the military, please send your info to elsyglc@gmail.com to be added to the prayer list)*

FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND
Joyce Rochester, Herb & Marge Foelber, Janice Keitel



Proclaiming the Good News of God's grace in Jesus Christ