

3rd Sunday in Advent

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 16, 2018

**“ A Community of Servants Sharing in the
Word and Work of Jesus”**

HOLY COMMUNION

(Based on ELW Setting Three)

Congregational responses are in bold print

Welcome to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church! There are four key parts to our Worship Service: we **GATHER** before our God to prepare to worship, and bring ourselves and all that we are before God. Then we hear the **WORD** of God; we share the four Bible Readings with at least one billion other Christians around the world each Sunday! And we hear that word proclaimed through the Sermon, confess our faith in the God whose Grace we hear about in the Word, and offer our prayers to God, for the sake of the Church, the World, and each other in our needs and joys. We then share in the **MEAL** of Holy Communion, offering ourselves and what we have to God, and then discovering God's love and forgiveness as we receive Christ's Body and Blood through the bread and wine. Finally we are **SENT**, the shortest but perhaps most important part of worship, because it is **THEN** that we live out our Faith and what we believe about God's Grace and Love, and how it makes us a blessing in this world as we share it.

During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are parts the you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in **bold type**. All of us are participants as we worship God!

Gathering

Gloria Patri: *Congregation and Choir Sing*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

The congregation stands.

Prelude: "Huron Carol"

Handbells

Arr. Waugh

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, † one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

To you, O God,
we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways;
teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in
Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift
of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are
anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

Amen

Gathering Song: *“Prepare the Royal Highway”*

Page 5

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing;
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

After the prayer the congregation responds:

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Third Sunday—*The Wonder of the Message*

During Advent we listen for the wonder of God's Word.

Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

During Advent we reach beyond the noise and distractions of this world.

Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

During Advent we ponder the good news that is our great joy.

Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

During Advent we speak words of hope to those engaged in life's struggles.

Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

During Advent we offer words of peace to those overcome by life's fears.

Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

Candle Lighting

Today, we light three candles. The **first candle** calls us to behold the wonder of the season in a fresh way. In a world where too often the familiar becomes commonplace, Advent is a time to ponder the mystery of God's amazing love. The **second candle** invites us to hear again the ancient prophecies that, like flames in the darkness, illuminate our world, inspire our faith, and guide our journey. As we light the **third candle**, we affirm that Advent is a time to hear again the still small voice calling us to behold God's promise, and embrace the gift of a Savior who is Christ our Lord.

The Wonder of Christmas

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

There is won - der in the hope of the birth of a
King, there is won - der in the sound of the an - gels as they
sing. O - - come, O come, Em - man - u -
el, and join us here.

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Word

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah:

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

Continued on Page 6

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.
²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.
³**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**
⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.
⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**
⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Philippians:

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

*The congregation **stands** to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to Luke:

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”

¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*The congregation is **seated**.*

Children's Sermon

Pastor Paul Pingel

Following the Children's Sermon, children ages 3-9 are invited to attend Children's Church, which is held on the same floor as this worship space in the Library, and Chapel. Here the children will learn more about the same Bible readings as were heard in worship, and will be taught songs and about the way we worship. Children's Church will return to worship around the time of the Sharing of the Peace, in order to take part in Holy Communion.

NOTE: The Nursery is available for children age 5 and under as the Worship Service begins. Children under 5 not attending Children's Church will have the Nursery available throughout the Worship Service. (As always, parents may choose to have their children remain with them in worship.) Children 10 and over will join in regular Worship.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

Page 11

Apostle's Creed

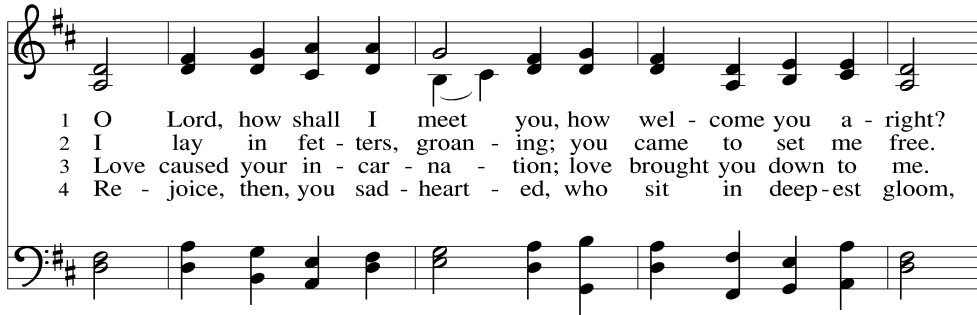
With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

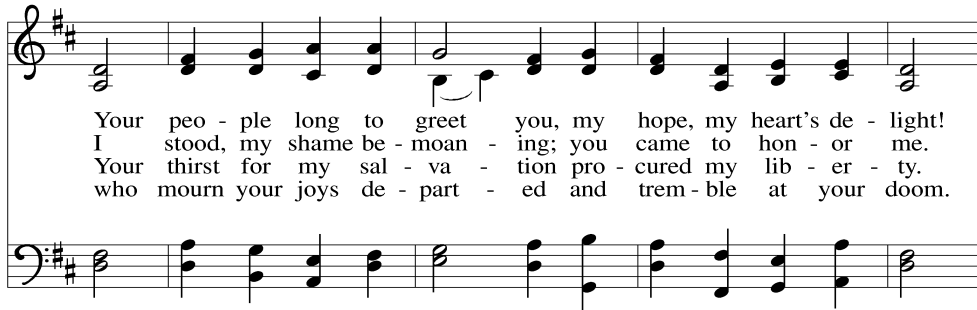
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of 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.

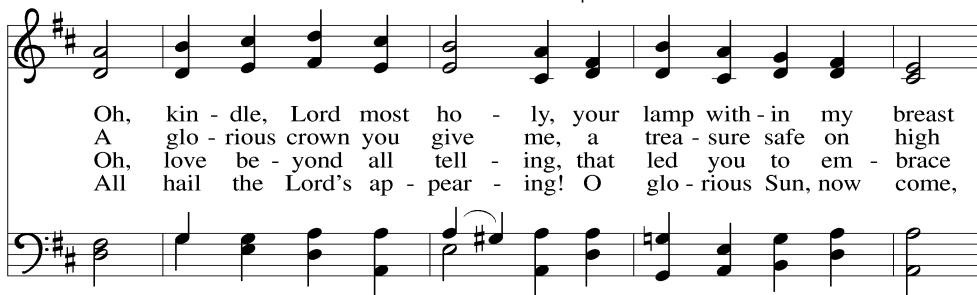
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite
Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Prayers of Intercession

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Meal

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

*The congregation is **seated**.*

Offering

(The offering is gathered by the ushers. Please place visitor cards in the offering plate)

Offertory: "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Regney/Shayne/Arr. Wagner


Handbells

*The congregation **stands***

(The Ushers bring the offering to the Altar, as we sing)

Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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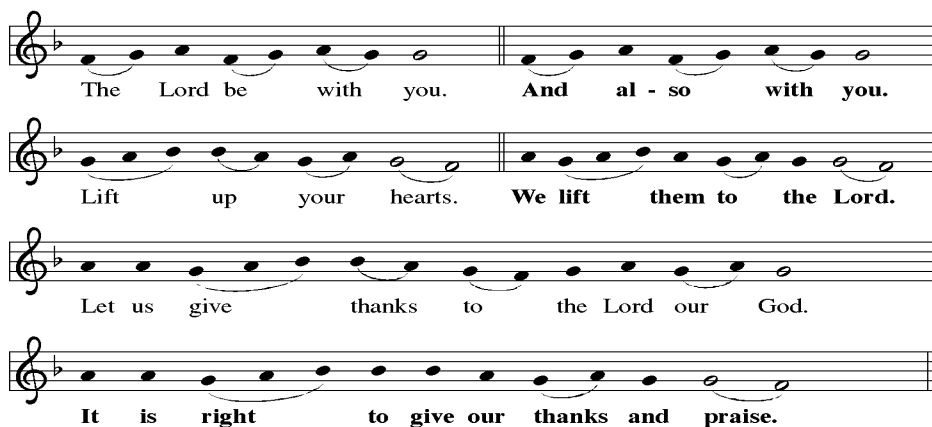
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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

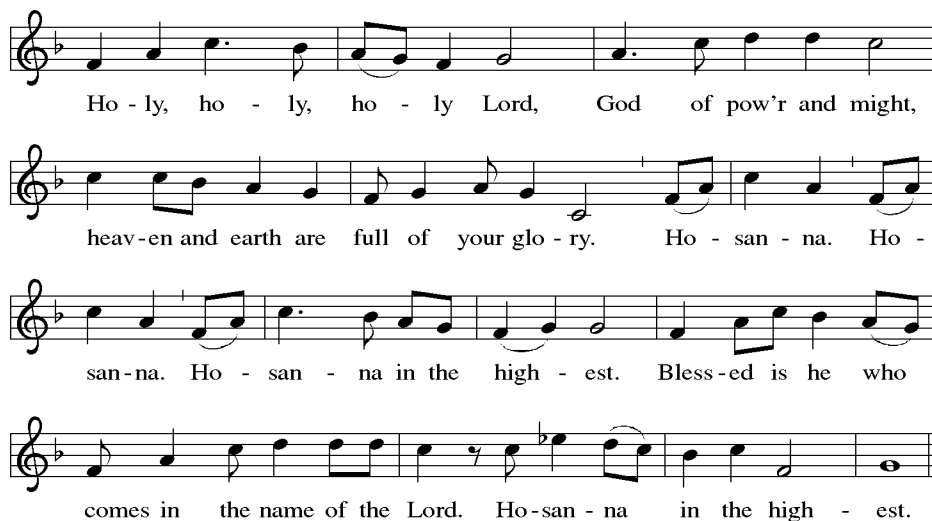
Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. **And** al - so 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.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life; Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Invitation to Communion

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may be seated.

The Holy Communion

The congregation may be **seated**.

OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)

Communion Distribution: One communion team will serve the left side of the nave; another team will serve those on the right. You are invited to come to the altar by the center aisle; take an empty individual glass (or filled grape juice glass) available at the railing, and proceed to the railing, filling in from the center out toward the side aisle. As you receive the bread and wine, you may respond as follows:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

As the ministers commune the congregation may sing the following:

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

There will be a time of silence as the choir comes down for Holy Communion. Please use this time for prayer and preparation, then join in the singing of the hymns....

Communion Hymns

“The King Shall Come”

“All Earth is Hopeful”

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

Page 18

Page 19

Page 20

*After all have returned to their places, the congregation **stands**.*

The Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen

Sending

Blessing

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song: *“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”*

Page 21

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *“Fughettain in A-Flat”*

Muffat

The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.



Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

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All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*
"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"
será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.

3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
 Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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Let Justice Flow like Streams

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

The first system of music consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a bass line in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note chord of G4 and B4, then a quarter note chord of G4 and B4, and a quarter note chord of G4 and B4. The bass line begins with a quarter note G2, followed by a half note chord of G2 and B2, then a quarter note chord of G2 and B2, and a quarter note chord of G2 and B2.

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

The second system of music continues the vocal line in treble clef and the bass line in bass clef. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note chord of G4 and B4, then a quarter note chord of G4 and B4, and a quarter note chord of G4 and B4. The bass line begins with a quarter note G2, followed by a half note chord of G2 and B2, then a quarter note chord of G2 and B2, and a quarter note chord of G2 and B2.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

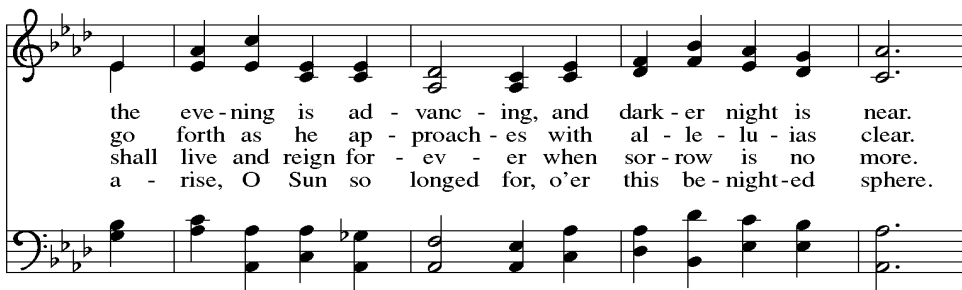
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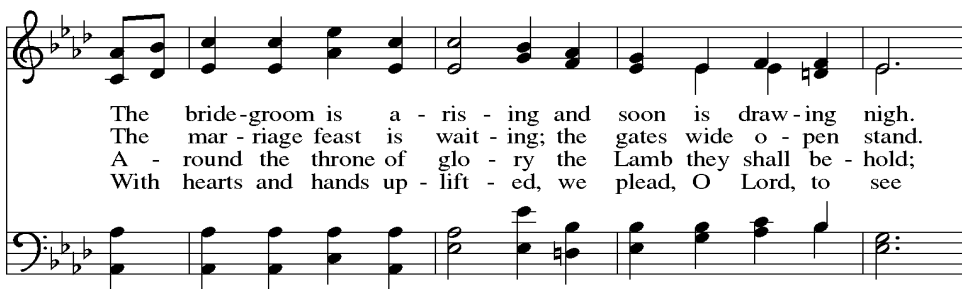
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



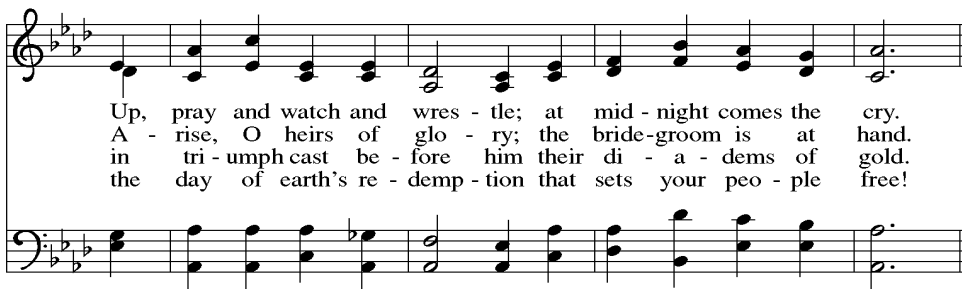
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today

<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	<i>Ron Almarode</i>
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	<i>Robin Crowder and Bill Meicke</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>Linda Meyer, Jean Morgan, Marlene Shaw</i>
<i>Greeters:</i>	<i>Brian and Diane Lundstrom</i>
<i>Offering Stewards:</i>	<i>Pat Brady and Bob Shumate</i>
<i>Acolyte:</i>	<i>Brodie Franklin</i>
<i>Cup Gatherer:</i>	<i>Donna Marshall</i>
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	<i>Lisa Gray</i>
<i>Nursery Caregivers:</i>	<i>Lisa Gray</i>
<i>Altar Flowers:</i>	<i>Jan and Gene McCombs</i>
<i>Council Person of the Week & Sunday School Support:</i>	<i>Gordon Putnam</i>
<i>Children's Church:</i>	<i>Amber Bokelman and Jean Franklin</i>

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THE CHANCEL FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN BY JAN AND GENE MCCOMBS
TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF GRANDDAUGHTER,
LINDSAY REE HYSON.

Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons

**December 23, 2018
4th Sunday in Advent**

Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.

Reverend Paul Pingel, Preaching and Presiding

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Announcements

Called Congregation Meeting at Grace Today—There is a called Congregation Meeting for the purpose of approving the 2019 Grace Budget after Worship today. Please plan on staying for this important meeting in the life of Grace Congregation.

Volunteers Needed for WARM's Cold Weather Shelter January 21 to 28—Grace will be hosting the WARM's Cold Weather Shelter the week of January 21th to 28th and we need volunteers to support and staff the shelter at Grace. We need help with check in host from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and overnight hosts from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. This year we will need only two overnight hosts per night of operation and we can use couples as overnight hosts or you may have a friend or member that you would like to coordinate with for hosting. The hosts take turns sleeping during the evening with one host staying awake at all times. Check in hosts assist WARM staff with nightly registration and other tasks. We also need help with meal preparation and serving the evening meals. Please contact Jerry Kite at 910-3372 or jerrykite@ntelos.net if you have questions. Please see sign up sheet on the table in the back of the church.

Kettle Ringers needed this Holiday Season - The Salvation Army is in *desperate* need of Kettle Ringers at various locations in the Waynesboro area! If you can help, please let the Church Office know at your earliest convenience, or you can call Patty directly at the Salvation Army, 943-7591 ext. 101.

Winter Celebration Virginia Synod Youth Event at Eagle Eyrie - Friday, January 18 - Sunday, January 20 - This year Pastor will be the Chaplain for the event, which is for 9th - 12th graders from all the Lutheran congregations in Virginia. It's a great weekend, and is held at Eagle Eyrie outside of Lynchburg, VA. As we have over the years, Grace pays for 2/3, and asks for 1/3 of the cost from families - \$50/student. The early bird cost (\$50) ends December 18th, so we need to put our paperwork in by then. See <https://www.vasynod.org/event/winter-celebration/> or <https://www.vasynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/registration-form-WC2019.pdf>

125th Anniversary Glasses - Some Grace members have asked about the possibility of ordering the Grace 125th Anniversary pilsner glasses that were offered prior to and on our November 18th Celebration day. If we meet a minimum order of 24, we will be able to place another order. Please indicate your interest on the sheet on the round table in the narthex. Cost for glasses is \$8 each.

Danville Hurricane Relief Trip Helps Four Families - Cynthia Long, Jerry Kite, Rick Bump, Lee Lynch and Pastor Paul spent portions of Dec. 2nd week in Danville, working on four houses, which received flood damage from Hurricane Michael earlier this year. A great deal of material was removed from homes, including molded dry wall, paneling, and stored goods damaged by the flood waters, and outdoor work was also done on one house. A group of five from Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church also went down during the same week.

Advent/Christmas at Grace

The Season of Advent - *"Prepare the way of the Lord!" John the Baptist cries out! What does that look like in 21st Century America? It's our faithful task to find out as we enter our 126th year as God's people here at Grace!*

Wednesday Advent Bible Study with St. John Roman Catholic - *at Grace, 12:00 noon, during Wednesdays in Advent: December 5th, 12th and 19th—location, the Seminar Room, on the same floor as the Worship Space. We had nineteen participants this past Wednesday! Hope you can be a part of this engaging ecumenical study of the Gospels of Advent! (This class takes the place of our other Wednesday/night Bible Studies in December).*

Wednesdays in Advent - *Evening Prayer with Reflections from Martin Luther on the meaning of Christmas. We share these worship services with our Lutheran neighbors in the Waynesboro area:*

- **December 19** - *Annual Blue Christmas Worship Service at Bethlehem, 7:00 p.m.*

Children/Youth Christmas Caroling - TODAY; *visiting homebound members of Grace, giving them cookies and singing the Good News of Christmas to them through favorite carols. Then, a Christmas gathering at the Pingel home afterward! Time to start is after Christmas decorating, 4 p.m. We are joined by children of all ages for this event, so hope to have a good crew to bring "comfort and joy" to those we meet.*

Christmas Decorating! - It is time to Decorate the Church!!! - TODAY - *Want a great family activity? Want to spend some time with your church family? Want to have some FUN? This Sunday, after the Grace Budget Meeting, we will seek the support of the congregation to decorate and transform our church to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Make this an annual event to share with your family as we prepare with great anticipation!!! We look forward to seeing you after the Budget meeting!!! Stay as long as you can and leave when you need to.*

Christmas Eve - *December 24th, 5:00 p.m. - Our annual tradition of telling the Story and "building" the manger with the help of families and children, and a festival worship of carols, anthems and the sharing of Holy Communion continues this year. Plus, our children will add to the telling of the Christmas Story in a unique way this year!*



Life of Grace Church
December 16—23, 2018

DAY OF WEEK	DATE	TIME	MEETING
TODAY—SUNDAY	12/16	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 4:00—6:30 p.m.	Sunday School Worship Choir Practice 3rd Sunday in Advent Holy Communion Pastor Paul Pingel, Preaching and Presiding Congregation Meeting—2019 Budget Church Christmas Decorating Youth Christmas Caroling
Monday	12/19	6:00 p.m.	Kiwanis (Conference Room)
Tuesday	12/18	10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall) Congregational Council (Conference Room)
Wednesday	12/19	All Day 12:00 Noon 3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	School Holiday Nancy Dowdy—Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office Pastor's Bible Study Warm Board (Conference Room) Advent Services—Blue Christmas at Bethlehem Lutheran Handbell Choir Practice Worship Choir Practice
Thursday	12/20	All Day 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	School Holiday Nancy Dowdy—Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office Newcomers Club (Fellowship Hall) Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)
Friday	12/21	All Day	School Holiday Nancy Dowdy—Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office
Sunday	12/23	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Choir Practice 4th Sunday in Advent Holy Communion Pastor Paul Pingel, Preaching and Presiding

Please print your new prayer concerns before worship on the sheet in the white notebook located in the back of our Worship area. Please ask ushers if you need assistance. **Names on the prayer list will remain on for four weeks**, in an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us. If the need is longer term, please notify the church office, and the person in need will be transferred to the "Ongoing

Prayer Request for Members

Marge Cloutier
Sandra Hoy
Anne Putnam
Tom Sheaffer
Barb Susen

Members/Friends Grieving

The Family of Kenny Keener, Cousin of Cindy Trauscht
The Family of Paul Posey, Grace Member

Members/Friends Celebrations

Ongoing Need for Prayer

Jimmy and Liz Ann Binns, Grace Members
Jean Brower, Grace Member
Barbara and Jeff Eagle, Sister and Brother-in-Law of Nancy Schwiesow
Kyle Getler, Member Relative
Sandy Johnson, Grace Member
Bob and Carol Knemoller, Grace Members
Peggy Lucas, Grace Member
Steve Meicke and Lisa Hall, wife of Steve Meicke, on their mission in Bolivia,
Son and daughter-in-Law of Bill and Kathy Meicke
Glenn and Flossie Myers, Grace Members
Beth Brady, Grace Member
Rev. Delmar Carlson, Brother-in-Law of Chuck Goodrich
Faye Glover, Grace Member
Myrtle Kite, Grace Member
Shirley Krizovsky, Grace Member
Janet Lunger, Grace Member
Maxine Pierce, Mother of Cindy Trauscht

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends

Marie Brown, Mother of Janet Parmer and Jane McGehee
Jocelyn Crowder and Stuart Crowder, Daughter-in-Law and Son of Robin and Cathy Crowder
Reuben Harris, Friend of the Dick and Linda Tomey
Connie Henson, Mother of Dave Matheny
Bill and Donna Link, Brother and Sister-in-Law of Carolyn Hite
Bill Moore, Friend of Grace Members
Cooper Trueblood, Friend of Ron and Sylvia Almarode
"Nana", Great-Grandmother of Mandy

The Needs of the World

Victims of Wildfires in California
Our Government Leaders
Those caught in the immigration debate in our nation
Peace on earth—in war-torn areas (Yemen, Ukraine, Syria)
The hungry, those without clean water, and those who
suffer in war torn areas of our world (Syria,
Yemen, Ukraine)

The Church

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the
Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital
(facing loss of funds from the U.S.)
The ELC-PNG New Guinea Islands District
The Virginia Synod
Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ
Our Blessings of Grace, and God's Foundation for our
future as we look toward year 126 of our unity
as Christ's Church, and our witness to the
Gospel in a world needing Good News

Weekly Prayer for Congregation Members Throughout the Year

Zach Bandy
Jorge Martinez

Pat Brady
Dwight Moomaw

Chuck Goodrich
Richard Quicquel

Daily Lectionary

Monday

Psalm 119:113-128
1 Samuel 18:6-30
Acts 27:13-38

Tuesday

Psalm 119:113-128
1 Samuel 19:1-7
Acts 27:39-44

Wednesday

Psalm 119:113-128
1 Samuel 19:8-17
Mark 6:45-52

Thursday

Psalm 130
1 Samuel 19:18-24
2 Corinthians 7:2-16

Friday

Psalm 130
1 Samuel 20:1-25
2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Saturday

Psalm 130
1 Samuel 20:27-42
Luke 4:31-37

Members of Grace, Ministers

Robin Crowder, President
Linda Meyer, Vice-President
Deloris Wertman, Secretary

Jack Eckstrom, Pete Giesen, Kim Hull, Carrie Jones,
Jerry Kite, Gordon Putnam, Marlene Shaw,
Rudolph Yobs

Hannah Pingel/Laura Shaw, Youth
Co-Representatives

Ron Almarode, Treasurer
Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer
Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary

Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor
Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music
Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.. (lunch 12:00 - 12:30) - Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m.—Noon - Friday

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youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro

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