



Wait for the revealing of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

First Sunday of Advent

*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 3, 2023*

*“Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are a vibrant
congregation that shares the love of Christ with each other,
the community, and the world.”*

HOLY COMMUNION

*Based on Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Three
Congregational responses are in bold print*

We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this morning's celebration of the Word and Sacrament. We gather each week to worship, study and share fellowship so we can joyfully serve others. We especially welcome those new to our worship. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to tell you more about Grace! Please fill in a visitor card and place it in the offering plate.

We ask that all who commune fill in a communion card.

We have Gluten Free Communion Wafers available.

Please inform Communion Assistant of your need.

Restrooms: Located to your left as you face the rear of the church.

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

As Jesus welcomed all in the crowds who gathered around him, so he welcomes us.

Gathering



Welcome to
Our Church

Gloria Patri

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

Embracing Grace: Generous, Loving and Caring 2.0

Robin Crowder

Confession and Forgiveness

We stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✙, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.



Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Fling Wide the Door

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -

Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song, for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Apostolic 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.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

First Sunday of Advent

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.

Candle Lighting

One candle is lit as we sing:

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

#240, Page 7, Verse 1



First Sunday of Advent

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Word

Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah:

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —

²as when fire kindles brushwood

and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

We read responsively

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

²before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴O Lord GOD of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

¹⁷But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,

the one whom you made strong for yourself.

¹⁸Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians”

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.


Thanks be to God.



1 Corinthians 1:4-7
Wait for the revealing of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?



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.

Text: John 6:68, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark:
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

²⁴But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will
send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the
ends of heaven.

²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its
leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you
know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all
these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass
away.

continued

³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

Children's Message

Pastor Paul Pingel



Sermon

Pastor Paul Pingel



Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

#435, Page 12

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pect - ed,
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
 claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
 Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799

Apostles' 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.

Ninamwamini Mungu, Baba Mwenyezi,
Muumba wa mbingu na dunia;

Na Yesu Kristo, Mwana wake wa pekee,
Bwana wetu, aliyetwaa mwili kwa tendo
la R`oho Mutakatifu, akazaliwa na Bikira
Maria. Akateswa zamani za Pontio
Pilato, akasulibiwa, akafa, akazikwa,
akashuka kuzimuni mwa wafu,
akafufuka katika wafu siku ya tatu,
akapanda mbinguni, anaka kwa
mukono wa kuume wa Mungu,
Baba Mwenyezi, ndipo atakuja tena
kuhukumu wazima na wafu.

Ninamwamini Roho Mutakatifu, Kanisa
kikristo takatifu, ushirika wa watakatifu,
ondoleo la zambi, ufufuko wa mwili, na
uzima wa milele. Amina

The
Apostles'
+ Creed +

Prayers of Intercession

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these words

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We sit.



Meal

Offering

We offer our thanks to God for "ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love" by our offerings. The offering plates will be passed by the ushers from the center aisle.

(Please place visitor cards and communion cards in the offering plate)

We stand.

We stand

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. 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: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
Through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.



Great Thanksgiving

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

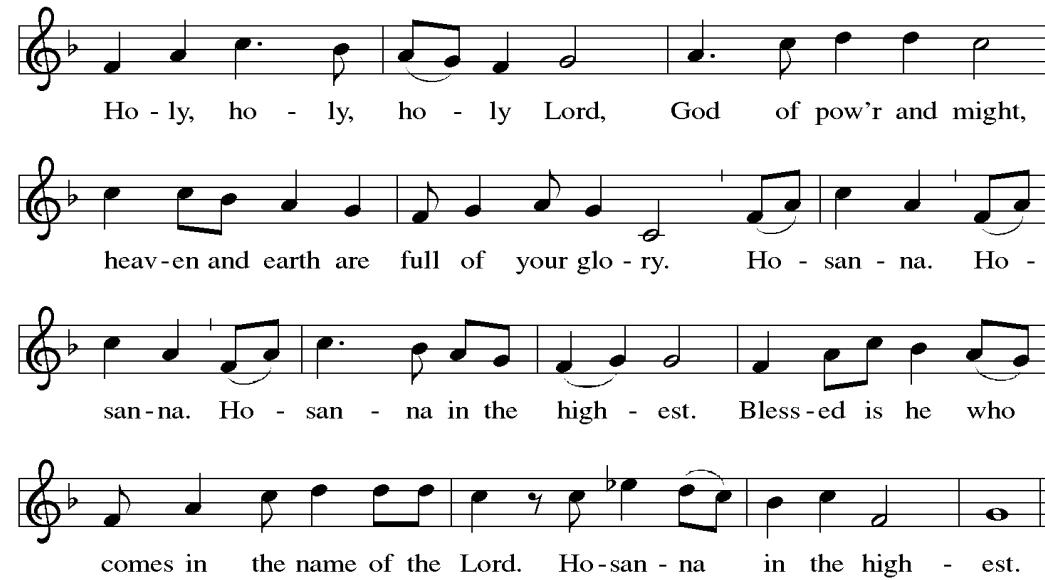
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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.

Sosanna
IN THE
Highest

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 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 of 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 has 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

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.
Thanks be to God.

We sit.

The Holy Communion

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)

Ushers will invite you to come down the center aisle. Receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister, then turn to the side you have sat on, and receive the wine/grape juice from the communion assistant at the altar rail. Place your empty cup in the trays at the end of the railing, and return to your pew via the side aisle.

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

Baba Yetu

**Baba Yetu uliye mbinguni, jina lako
litukuzwe;
ufalme wako ufike,
utakalo lifanyike
duniani kama mbinguni.
Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku,
utusamehe makosa yetu,
kama nasi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea.
Usitutie katika kishawishi,
lakini utuopoe maovuni.
Amina.**

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.

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.

Generous God,
**In bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**



Sending

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament from this gathering to those who are absent.

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and Sacrament to our sisters and brothers. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Benediction

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you
now and forever.

Amen.



Sending Song: *“The King Shall Come”*

#260, Page 22

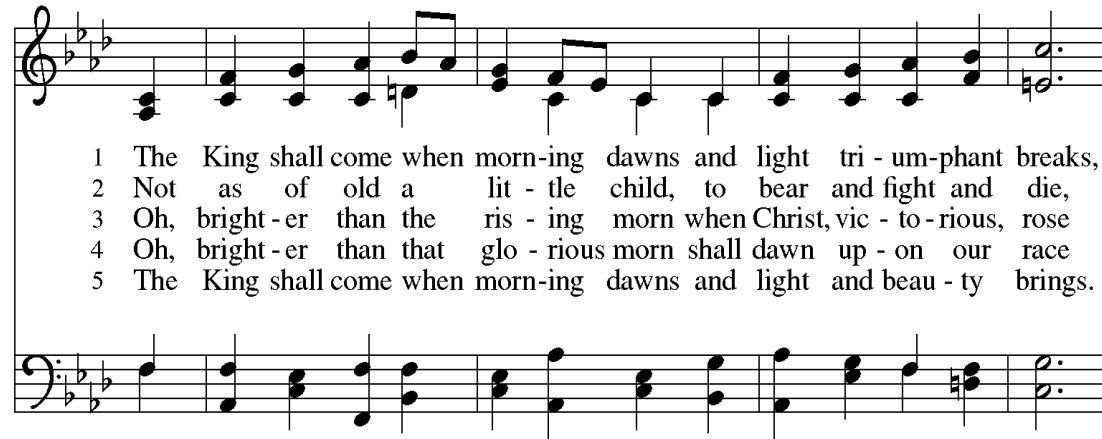
The Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.

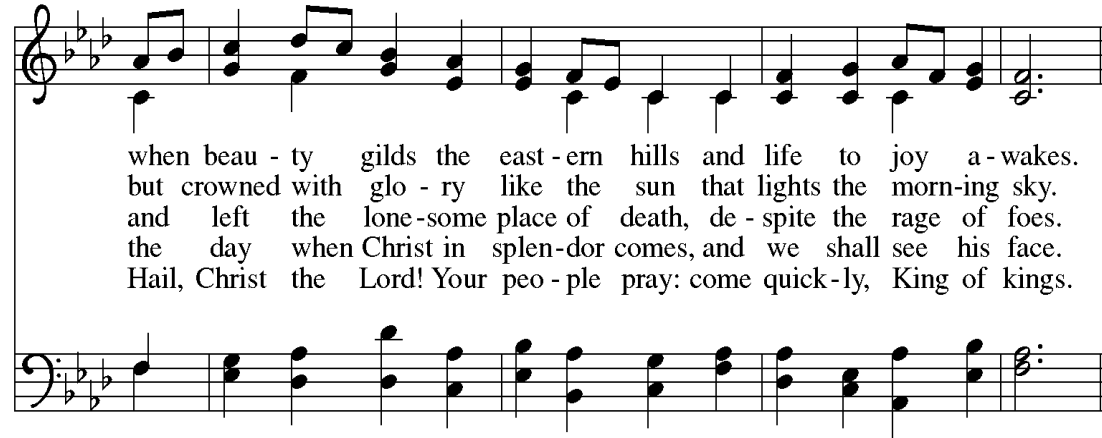
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

The King Shall Come



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phunt 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.

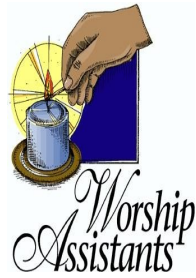


when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your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

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today



<i>Altar Flowers:</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	<i>Jean Morgan</i>
<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	<i>Donna Gum</i>
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	<i>Kathy Bump</i> <i>Carolyn Hite</i>
<i>Council Person of the Week:</i>	<i>Robin Crowder</i>
<i>Offering Stewards:</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i> <i>Jean Morgan</i> <i>Karen Walck</i> <i>Rew Walck</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	



*Chancel flowers this morning
are given to the Glory of God*



December 10 Schedule and Lessons

Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.

Pastor Paul Pingel
Presiding and Preaching

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8



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 Need for Prayer" list.

Prayer Request for Members (Remain on List for four (4) weeks)

**Berenice Archambeault
Ron Knicely
Vivian Proctor**

**Chuck Goodrich
Gloria Nelson
Rew Walck**

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for four (4) weeks)

Linda and Roger Eckenrode, Friend of the Trauschts
Lou Lanier, Friend of the Nelsons
Pat Nabers, Friend of Many Grace Members
Carrie Peters, Niece of the Schwiesows
Judy Simpson, Sister of Sharon Lynch

Joys and Celebrations (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Remain on List for three (3) months)

**Emily Almarode
Sandy Johnson**

**Genevieve Arneson
Phyllis Kite
Tom and Carol Varner**

**Marge Cloutier
Glenn Myers**

Continued

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for three (3) months)

Sherry Aldinger, Friend of Tami Radecke
Nina Crow, Mother of Cathy Crowder
Dorothy Getler, Mother of Bill Meicke
Sandie Hammel, Friend of Gail Johnson
Neil Harris, Friend of the Trauschts
Marcy Haywood, Friend of the Trauschts
Joshua Horn, Friend of the Trauschts
Carrie Humphreys, Former Grace Member
Melissa Oskrig, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Ruth Phelke, Mother of Lisa Edens and Friend of Gail and Sandy Johnson
Charles and Ruth Ann Williams, Friends of Gail and Sandy Johnson

Members/Friends Grieving (Remain on List for four (4) weeks*)

Family of Stephen Cohen, Friend of the Schwiesows
Family of Pastor Lane Doerring, Father of Beth Ann Doerring
Family of Imogene Hull, Member of Grace
Family of Ann Hyden, Grandmother of Kirk Hyden
Family of Michael Sathe, Friend of the Almarodes
Charlie Wood, Friend of the Almarodes

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Jane Blosser (12/05)	Holly Carper (12/06)
Sandy Johnson (12/08)	Gloria Nelson (12/08)
Pat Giesen (12/09)	Alexandra Spellman (12/09)

 IN OUR 
Thoughts and Prayers

Prayers for the World

The Israeli and Palestine conflict - that ancient hatreds might be overcome by God's Grace, even and especially among those who invoke God's name in the conflict.

Safety in travel over the holidays for many:
for transportation workers, postal and delivery company workers, those who work for airlines, airports

Peace in the World—Those whose lives are shattered by war; those victimized by human trafficking

For those with mental health problems, especially during the holiday season

Our elected officials, we pray for leadership to serve the common good

The Church

Indigenous Peoples and the ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement

Christ Tabernacle Church of God and our CCE&J Group

Our Neighbors

Our neighbors in Augusta County

Monday

Amos 2:6-16
2 Peter 1:1-11
Matthew 21:1-11
Morning Psalm 122 Evening 40



Tuesday

Amos 3:1-11
2 Peter 1:12-21
Matthew 21:12-22
Morning Psalm 33, Evening 85

Wednesday

Amos 3:12-4:5
2 Peter 3:1-10
Matthew 21:23-32
Morning Psalm 50, Evening 53

Thursday

Amos 4:6-13
2 Peter 3:11-18
Matthew 21:33-46
Morning Psalm 18:1-20, Evening 126

Friday

Amos 5:1-17
Jude 1-16
Matthew 22:1-14
Morning Psalm 102, Evening 130

Saturday

Amos 5:18-27
Jude 17-25
Matthew 22:15-22
Morning Psalm 90 Evening 80

Advent/Christmas at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Season of Advent - Yes, soon, a New Church Year, and the Season of Advent will be upon us! We celebrate the Season once again with a series of Wednesday Advent Services with a focus on the prophecies of Isaiah as they point us toward our salvation through the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Plan to join in worship with our Lutheran sisters and brothers in Christ this Advent!

Wednesdays in Advent - *Evening Prayer and reflection on the theme: Our Salvation Through the Messiah, Jesus Christ. We share these worship services with our Lutheran brothers and sisters in the Waynesboro area:*

- **Wednesday, December 6th** – at Zion Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 13th** – at Grace Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 20th** – at St. James Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, December 21** - at Bethlehem Lutheran Church with Blue Christmas emphasis at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Decorating at Grace—we will decorate the worship space after worship and the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, **December 17**. Many hands make light work and joy comes in the fellowship we share in our work!

Christmas Eve - December 24th, 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve - December 24th, 5:00 p.m. - *Our children and adult choir will present a wonderful program of music and assist in the telling of the Good News of Jesus' birth, as families "build" the crèche scene. We will celebrate Holy Communion and sing Silent Night by candlelight.*





Embracing Grace TODAY! If you've not yet filled out a Commitment Card, please do so **today**, because our Finance Committee meets tomorrow to determine a recommended budget for Council to approve Tuesday! Your Commitment helps to create an accurate Spending Plan for Grace! Many thanks!



Youth Host First Sunday Fellowship is Today! Our youth will be sharing a short presentation on their faith journey to New Orleans, what they hope to get out the experience, and how Grace Congregants can contribute to their efforts by investing in “shares” of their trip. If you can’t make the Sunday presentation, it is still possible to contribute by visiting the Grace website, www.gracewaynesboro.org, click on "MORE..." at the top of the page, then click on "Tithely Donation," making sure to credit your donation (Give To:) to "2024 National Youth Gathering"



It's A Wrap! In December, our Youth will be wrapping Christmas Presents for you! Please bring your presents to the youth room at Grace and youth will wrap them in exchange for a donation to the mission trip. Presents can be dropped off December 17th after worship. You can wait for your freshly wrapped package, or drop it off and pick it up December 22nd.



Altar Flowers—Please consider signing up to provide Altar Flowers for December Sunday services. You can either sign up on the flower chart in the Nave or call the church office. Also, the 2024 Flower Chart has been put up in the Nave.



Community Potluck at Grace—No meal Wednesday, December 6, due to the WARM Cold Weather Shelter at Grace.



Second Round of Mission Endowment Fund Grant Requests—Earlier this year, Grace was able to fund 14 Mission Endowment Fund requests submitted by congregation members to provide funding for a number of widely varying ministries and non-profit organizations providing help in many ways, in our community and world. There remains \$8,295 in funds that are still available for grants. Please see the attached and note that the funds that remain available are designated for *specific* types of ministry or focus. Your requests for a grant must be in one of the three remaining categories of funding. Please find information sheets and the grant request forms in the Nave. Grace is blessed to be a blessing in our community and world! And you are Grace! Again, your grant requests (in the specific categories remaining) are due by **December 13th**.



Budget Meeting

Called Congregation Meeting - Sunday, December 17th, there will be a called Congregation meeting at Grace for the purpose of voting on the proposed Spending Plan for Grace in 2024. You will be receiving a letter/email with information for you to pray for and consider in advance of the meeting. Please DO pray for this specific and tangible part of God's Mission for us in our community and world, to share the gospel, and be a blessing in the midst of our many blessings.



First Sunday of Advent

Our Advent Wreath Outdoors! Thanks to Jack Eckstrom, and his crew of Charlie, Fred, Jerry, Lee, Mike, Rick and Ron for putting up the Outdoor Wreath as a witness to the Community of the Advent of our Lord Jesus!



WAYNESBORO AREA REFUGEE MINISTRY

WARM—Grace Cold Weather Shelter - December 4-11, 2023—Monday, tomorrow, Grace will begin hosting the Cold Weather Shelter for the week. Please keep our guests and our volunteers in your prayers!

All Volunteers: Please remember to **sign in/out every day/night** that you volunteer—the blue notebook will be in the kitchen on the left end of the stainless steel counter. **One time**—all volunteers must **read/sign the Confidentiality Agreement** –in the white notebook in the kitchen on the left end of the stainless steel counter.

Needs: Fresh fruit (soft fruits like grapes, bananas, oranges), sandwich meat (ham, turkey, bologna, roast beef), peanut butter and jelly, bread, small bags of chips, fruit cups, soft nutrition bars, nabs, small bags of cookies, fruit juice boxes, jugs of tea/lemonade (think items for sack lunches, breakfast, dinner drinks).
35 sack lunches/day!

Toiletries: small size—shampoo/conditioner, soap, toothpaste, lotion, combs, disposable razors.

Volunteers—Interested? Questions? Please see/call/text Susan Myers 434-760-1660 or sparkelmyers@gmail.com. **Thank you!**



A Christmas Musical, “I Can Hear the Angels Sing” presented by Christ Tabernacle Experience Saturday, December 9, at 5:00 p.m., 489 Winchester Avenue.
Join them for an evening filled with music as we celebrate the Christmas Season.



All God's Children has resumed meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month at 7:00 p.m. We are always delighted to welcome new members. If you want to be added to the mailing list, please let Rick Bump know (rcbump0621@gmail.com). In November, we will be reading *US: The Resurrection of American Terror* by ELCA Pastor Kenneth Wheeler, who is black. Though challenging, it will help us see an important perspective of the ELCA.



Be a "HERO" this Holiday season! HERO of Waynesboro is a coalition of churches, including Grace, who have formed a non-profit organization to pool our resources to help families facing eviction or cut-off utilities. Your donation at www.herowaynesboro.org can help a family keep a roof over their heads, or a warm place to stay as cold weather approaches.



Columbarium—As you make your final plans, remember that Grace has a Columbarium on the North side of the building. Each niche will hold two (2) of our brass urns, which are included in the cost of \$2,250 per niche. There are also Memorial Bricks available for the patio, which can be engraved with the name of a loved one who may be buried elsewhere. For more information, contact Bradley Keefer at 540-942-4290 or the Church Office.



Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need—Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food pantries. We have made thirty-eight deliveries thus far, sixteen to Main Street United Methodist, and twenty-two to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 4,005 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Sanitary Kits for Africa - We continue to make these kits from 9x9 flannel squares at Grace! Please continue donating 9x9 Prewashed Flannel (no fleece, felt or plush) squares at the back of the Nave. Contact Gloria Nelson if you have questions.



Words You Don't Want to Say, but We Must! Those words are **COVID, flu, RSV and Winter Viruses**. We've had a number of members who have been sick in recent days and weeks. We are coming into a time when Health experts tell us to expect more cases. With this in mind please note the following:

1. If you have any symptoms, or have tested positive, please stay at home. YouTube worship services are available Live every Sunday for those who are sick.
2. If you have COVID, flu, fever or aches, please wait until you test negative - usually 5-10 days or until symptoms end - until you return to worship.
3. Please note that FREE tests kits are available from covid.gov. Or you can find test kits at local pharmacies or grocery stores for about \$8 - \$10.



December

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	12/03	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:10 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	 <p>Adult Bible Class First Sunday of Advent Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Stewardship Celebration First Sunday Fellowship—Youth Confirmation Class K-5 Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom)</p>
Monday	12/04	1:00 p.m.	 <p>WARM Finance Committee Meeting (Conference Room)</p>
Tuesday	12/05	9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	  <p>WARM Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall) HERO Meeting (Conference Room) Called Council Meeting for Budget (Conference Room)</p>
Wednesday	12/06	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	  <p>WARM Prayer Group (Chapel) Yoga (Seminar Room) Choir Practice Advent Worship—Zion Lutheran Church</p>
Thursday	12/07	8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	 <p>WARM Grace Walkers Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) CCE&J—Grace Conference Room and Zoom</p>
Friday	12/08		 <p>WARM Office Closed</p>
Saturday	12/09	11:00 a.m.	<p>WARM Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>
Sunday	12/10	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:10 a.m.	 <p>Adult Sunday School Second Sunday in Advent Service Of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Confirmation Class K-5 Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom)</p>



Grace Church Council 2023-24

Robin Crowder, President (540-476-0180)
Allison Fink, Vice-President (540-448-0985)
Jack Eckstrom (240-344-3176)
Jerry Kite (540-910-3372)
Linda Meyer (540-256-2277)
Jean Morgan (540-649-4422)
Susan Myers (434-760-1660)
Stephen Van Stee (540-325-0772)
Karen Walck (765-480-9920)
Donna Yobs (650-248-4882)
Cabell Caister, Youth Member
Ron Almarode, Treasurer
Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary

Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor, Email: pastorpingel@gmail.com

Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music, Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary, Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

Office Hours: 8:00—11:30 a.m. and 12:30—2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday **Closed Friday**

facebook.com/gelc.elca
youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro
Internet: www.gracewaynesboro.org
Telephone: 540.949.6171