



Second Sunday of Advent

*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 10, 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
(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.



Welcome to
Our Church

Gathering

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

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.



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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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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Second Sunday of Advent

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

Amen.

Candle Lighting

Two candles are lit as we sing:

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

#240, Page 7, Verse 2



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

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah:

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the
LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,

continued



**HE WILL
FEED HIS
FLOCK
LIKE A
SHEPHERD.**

ISAIAH 40:11, NRSV

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

We read responsively

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
²**You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.**
Selah
⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
⁹**Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**
¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
¹¹**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**
¹²The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
¹³**Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.**

... he will
**SPEAK
PEACE**
to his people,
to his faithful,
to those who
turn to him
in their
HEARTS.



Psalm 85:8, NRSV

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from 2 Peter:

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

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 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

#255, Page 12

There's a Voice in the Wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



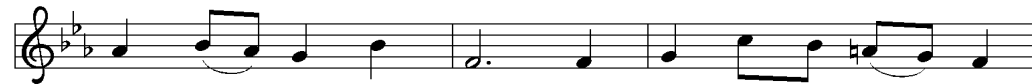
call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

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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

Musical notation for the Great Thanksgiving, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

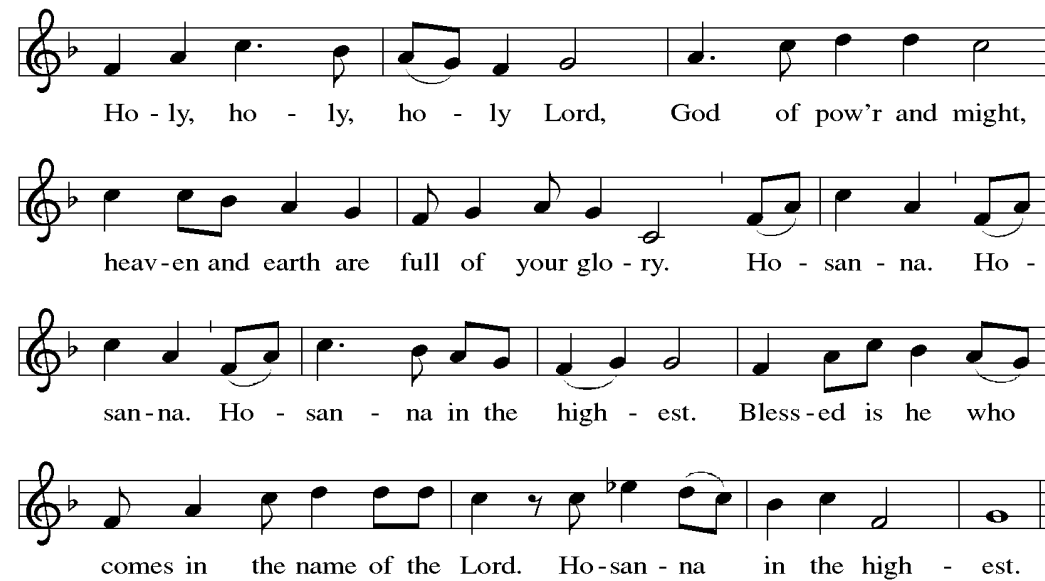
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

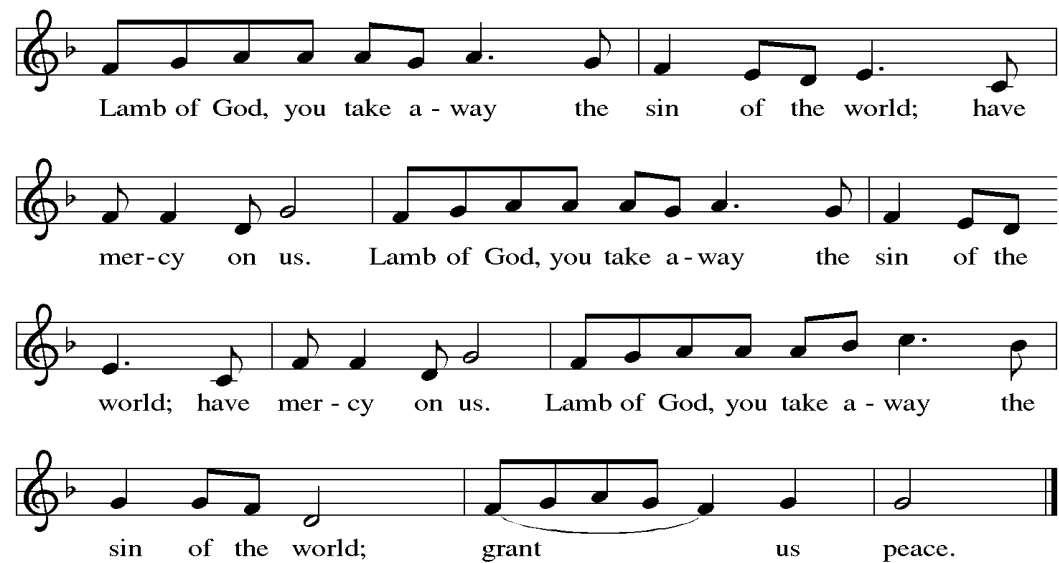
OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening 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

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: *“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”*

#249, Page 22

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

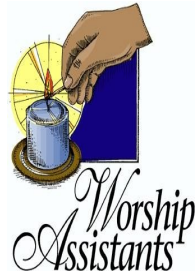
1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today



Altar Flowers:

Jim and Gloria Nelson

Altar Guild:

Cathy Firkin

Jane Stein

Assisting Minister:

Tami Radecke

Communion Assistants:

Allison Fink

Andrew Sell

Council Person of the Week:

Stephen Van Stee

Offering Stewards:

Pat Brady

Robin Crowder

Ushers:

Ron Almarode

Lee Lynch



Altar Flowers

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



*Third Sunday
of Advent*

December 17 Schedule and Lessons

Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

10:00 a.m.

Pastor Paul Pingel

Presiding and Preaching

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28



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
Rex 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
Anne Young, Friend of Donna Gum

Joys and Celebrations (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)
Tenth Wedding Anniversary of Chuck and Judi Goodrich

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
Neil Harris, Friend of the Trauschts
Marcy Haywood, Friend of the Trauschts
Joshua Horn, Friend of the Trauschts
Melissa Oskrig, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Ruth Phelke, Mother of Lisa Edens and Friend 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
Family of Don Stumpf, Uncle of Susan Myers
Charlie Wood, Friend of the Almarodes

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Judi Goodrich (12/12)

Donna Dodge (12/16)

Deloris Wertman (12/13)

 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 7:1-9
Revelation 1:1-8
Matthew 22:23-33
Morning Psalm 145 Evening 67



Tuesday

Amos 7:10-17
Revelation 1:9-16
Matthew 22:34-46
Morning Psalm 146, Evening 94

Wednesday

Amos 8:1-14
Revelation 1:17-2:7
Matthew 23:1-12
Morning Psalm 147:1-12, Evening 17

Thursday

Amos 9:1-10
Revelation 2:8-17
Matthew 23:13-26
Morning Psalm 147:13-21, Evening 62

Friday

Haggai 1:1-15
Revelation 2:18-29
Matthew 23:27-39
Morning Psalm 148, Evening 16

Saturday

Haggai 2:1-9
Revelation 3:1-6
Matthew 24:1-14
Morning Psalm 149, Evening 72

Advent/Christmas at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Season of Advent - The Season of Advent is 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 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!

Fourth Sunday of Advent/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.*





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.



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 Sunday services. You can either sign up on the flower chart in the Nave or call the church office. The 2024 Flower Chart has been put up in the Nave.



Use of Grace Facilities—If you are planning a fellowship event, a meeting, a gathering, etc. at Grace for any time or purpose, please contact the church office to ensure that the space you would like to use is available and that it gets put on the Church calendar. As we again become social, the church facilities are being used much more frequently. All current and future Yoga Classes will be held in the Seminar Room as usage of the Fellowship Hall has increased tremendously. Thank you!



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**.



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!



Grace- WARM Cold Weather Shelter - One (1) more night!

Tonight (Sunday, December 10) is the last night we will host the CWS in our Fellowship Hall this season. **Thank You to all our incredible volunteers** who have done a terrific job making guests feel welcome. We are not just feeding and providing shelter, but **communing with** our guests - listening and making sure they know that they are not alone; we care.

We need volunteers - Monday, December 11 starting at 7:00 a.m. WARM and our guests will leave and take their belongings to their next site, but we need to reset the Fellowship Hall back for our regular routines. **Please sign-up in the back of the Nave or see/contact Jerry Kite 540-910-3372.**



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.



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 test kits are available from **covid.gov**. Or you can find test kits at local pharmacies or grocery stores for about \$8 - \$10.



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.



December

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	12/10	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:10 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	 <p>Adult Sunday School Second Sunday of Advent Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Confirmation Class K-5 Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom)</p>
Monday	12/11	7:00 p.m.	 <p>All God's Children Book Study (Conference Room)</p>
Tuesday	12/12	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	 <p>Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>Worship and Music Meeting (Conference Room)</p>
Wednesday	12/13	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	 <p>School Backpacking (Fellowship Hall) Prayer Group (Chapel) Yoga (Seminar Room) Community Potluck Dinner (Fellowship Hall) Advent Worship—Grace Lutheran Church</p>
Thursday	12/14	8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	 <p>Grace Walkers Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) Virginia Organizing (Conference Room) Fellowship Committee Meeting (Seminar Room)</p>
Saturday	12/16	11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	<p>Yoga (Seminar Room) Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconciliation (Constitution Park) CCE&J Brunch</p>
Sunday	12/17	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:10 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	 <p>Adult Sunday School Third Sunday in Advent Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Congregational Meeting Church Decorating Confirmation Class K-5 Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom)</p>

CHURCH  COUNCIL

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**

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