



THIRD SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT

*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December 11, 2022*

*“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  
(Available via You Tube and Zoom Remotely)*

*Congregational responses are in bold print*

*We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this morning's celebration of 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.***

*We have 4 assisted listening units that are simple to operate. They consist of a small unit with an earpiece and volume control, each unit is replaced after each use. See the ushers to use one today.*

*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 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! 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**

#### **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**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God's name forever.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the One who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

**We have strayed from your paths.**

**We prepare to do battle instead of seeking your way of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.**

**Purify us with your refining fire**

**and set us again on your way of love,**

**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,**

**and welcome your coming among us.**

**Amen.**

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch,

a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ✝ Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**Amen.**



Gathering Hymn: "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

#242, Page 5

## Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen  
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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 the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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

#### **Third Sunday of Advent**

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

**Amen**

#### **Candle Lighting**

*Three candles are lit as we sing:*

*"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"*

**#240, Page 8 Verse 3**



## 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 35:1-10

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.  
<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



**Psalm: Psalm 146:5-10**

*We read responsively*

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,  
**<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;**  
<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
**<sup>8</sup>the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**  
<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
**<sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.**  
Praise the LORD!  
**Amen and Amen.**

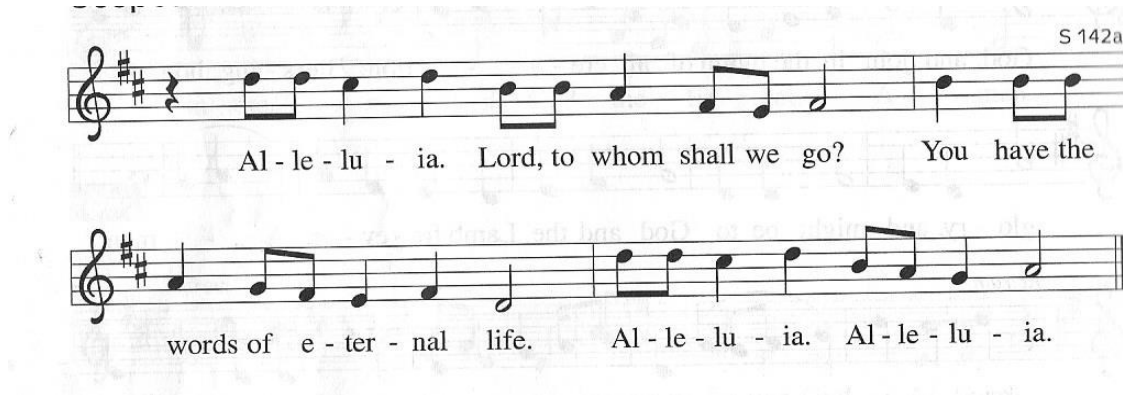
**Second Reading: James 5:7-10**

A reading from James:

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**



S 142a

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: Matthew 11:2-11**

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

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

*Continued*

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist;  
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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:** "Hark! The Glad Sound!"

**#239, Page 12**

## Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751  
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

## Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

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

**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.**

**Na Yesu Kristo, Mwana wake wa pekee,  
Bwana wetu, aliyetwaa mwili kwa tendo  
la Roho 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, anakaa kwa  
mukono wa kuume wa Mungu,  
Baba Mwenyezi, ndipo atakuja tena  
kuhukumu wazima na wafu.**

**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 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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

*Each portion of the prayers end with these words*

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

**Meal**

### Peace

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

*Please greet those around you, offer a sign of peace to one another.*

*We sit.*

### 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*

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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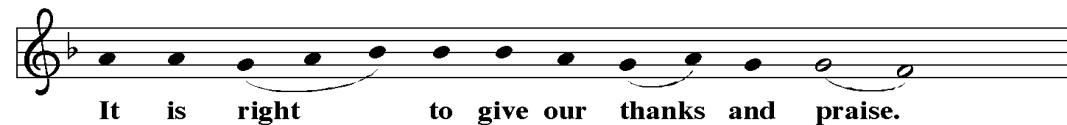
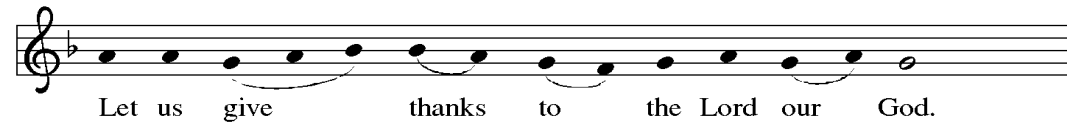
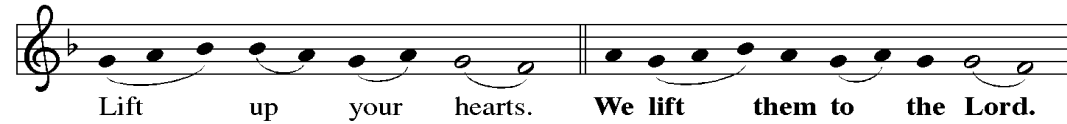
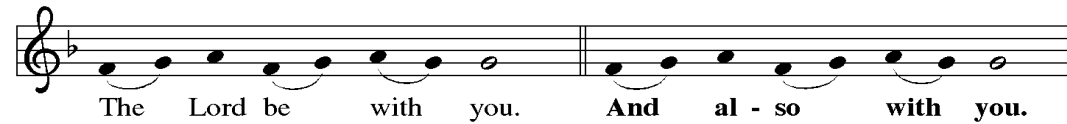
## Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Eternal God,  
**you make the desert bloom  
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.  
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,  
and make us messengers of your mercy and love  
for all in need of your healing and justice.  
We ask this through Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**



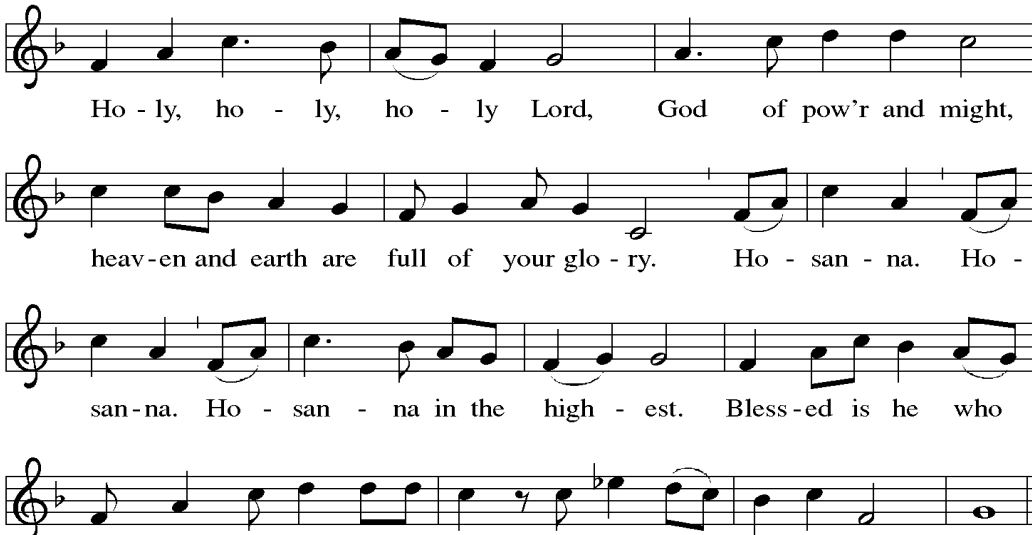
## Great Thanksgiving





## 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**



I will *praise*  
the name  
of *God*  
with a song, and will  
magnify him  
with  
*Thanksgiving.*

Psalm 69:30, NKJV



### 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

Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God, who has come to save you.  
**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)*

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.

Faithful God,  
**in this meal you have remembered your mercy,  
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.  
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,  
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.  
Guide us toward your promised future,  
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**



**Sending**

# Benediction+

**Benediction**

God the eternal Word,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
✝ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song:** *“People, Look East”*

**#248, Page 22**

**The Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**



*Preparing for the  
Christmas Season*

## People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

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Altar Flowers

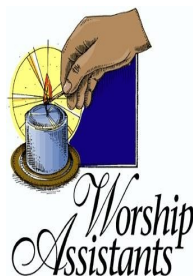
*Chancel flowers this morning  
are given to the Glory of God and in  
memory of Richard Sheaffer by Dot Sheaffer  
and in  
memory of Franklin Gum by Donna Gum*

*Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons*

*December 18, 2022  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m.*

*Pastor Paul Pingel  
Presiding and Preaching*

*Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25*



*Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today*

*Altar Flowers:*

*Donna Gum  
Dot Sheaffer*

*Altar Guild:*

*Jean Morgan*

*Assisting Minister:*

*Cathy Crowder*

*Communion Assistants:*

*Robin Crowder*

*Andrew Sell*

*Council Person of the Week:*

*Nancy Schwiesow*

*Offering Stewards:*

*Pat Brady*

*Robin Crowder*

*Ushers:*

*Rick Bump*

*Linda Meyer*



**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 4 weeks\*)**

Sylvia Almarode

Jan McCombs

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

K. J. Vigue, Friend of Gail Johnson and Donna Gum

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

Birth of Miles Marcus Lawson, Grandson of Robin and Cathy Crowder

Katie Crowder receiving Salem's Teacher of the Year Recognition,

Daughter-in-Law of Robin and Cathy Crowder

Angel Morgan receiving her doctorate from NC State, Daughter-in-Law Jean Morgan

**Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Please advise of status changes)**

Emily Almarode

Liz Ann Binns

Beth Brady

Fred Brower

Marie Brown

Sandra Hoy

Kathryn Johnson

Phyllis Kite

Glenn Myers

Jimmy Owens

Janet Parmer

Ingrid Sevigny

**Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Please advise of status changes)**

Timothy Bradford, Friend from Christ Tabernacle

Janice Collins, Friend of Grace

Kyle Getler, Member Relative

Darren Graf, Son of Woody and Irma Graf

Jen Kearney, Friend to Many at Grace

Judy Simpson, Sister of Sharon Lynch

**Members/Friends Grieving**

Family of James Hepner, Father of Gloria Nelson

Family of Flossie Myers, Member of Grace

Family of Bruce Whitfield, Father of Zanny Bandy

**Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Please advise of status changes)**

Natalie and Nicole Dodge, Friend of Ron and Sylvia Almarode

Regan Grant, Friend of Richard and Kathy Bump

*Continued*



**James Hepner**, Father of Gloria Nelson  
**Sandy Higgs**, Friend of David and Nancy Schwiesow  
**Rosalind Holt**, Friend of Gail Johnson  
**Joshua Horn**, Friend of Mike and Cindy Trauscht  
**Helen McClung**, Cousin of Nancy Schwiesow  
**Dot Metz**, Sister of Marge Cloutier  
**Margarett Neely**, Mother of Jill Pingel  
**Ken & Letty Rosen**, Friends of David and Nancy Schwiesow  
**Larry Spoon**, Husband of Bonnie Spoon, Friend of Many  
**Kay Truslow**, Friend of Mike and Cindy Trauscht  
**Douglas Williams**, Friend of Sylvia Almarode, deployed to Kuwait for one year  
**Toretta Wyatt**, Friend from Christ Tabernacle

**Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Throughout the Year Celebrating Birthdays**

Jane Blosser (12/5)	Holly Carper (12/6)
Sandy Johnson (12/8)	Gloria Nelson (12/8)
Pat Giesen (12/9)	Alexandra Spellman (12/9)
Judi Goodrich (12/12)	Deloris Wertman (12/13)
Donna Dodge (12/16)	Richard Quickel (12/17)
Kathy Meicke (12/17)	LizAnn Binns (12/17)

**The Needs of the World**

**First responders: Fire, EMT, Medical Personnel, Police and Military at risk in their service to others**

The Homeless in our Community (35 are served by WARM, but it is estimated that there are an additional 45-60 not served by the Shelter)

**This Fall's flu and virus proliferation, and continuing Covid dangers (avg. deaths per day still exceed 200/day)**

The strength of the church's witness in a world in need of Good News

**Four Shootings: UVA (three killed, two wounded), Idaho (four killed), Colorado (five killed, others injured), and Chesapeake, VA (six killed, others injured)**

LGBTQ citizens of our nation, and the increase of rhetoric that puts them more at risk in daily life

**For peace on earth: The Ukraine, Republic of Congo, Syria, Ethiopia, Yemen**

**The Church**

**Grace's Strategic Planning**

Our friends in Christ at St. John Episcopal

**Our Neighbors**

**Our neighbors in the Wenonah area**



**Christmas Eve and Christmas at Grace!** Invite family and friends to celebrate God - With - Us, Emmanuel this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day! God So Loved the World That He Gave His Only Son...Come and worship December 24 and 25

**Christmas Eve Family Service of Holy Communion - 5:00 p.m.** - Choir, Candlelight, Carols, Creche building, giving praise for the Good News of our Savior's Birth

**Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion - 8:00 p.m.** - Candlelight, Carols, Special Music (Soloists and Musicians), celebrating the joyful news that Jesus is God-With-Us, Emmanuel!



**Christmas Day Service of Holy Communion - 10:00 a.m.** - Christmas Morning Worship on a Sunday! Carols, Communion, the Word Made Flesh, Dwelling Among Us.



**Advent Wednesdays Shared by Four Lutheran Congregations** The Season of Advent - the start of a new Church Year - began November 27th. In addition, we will mark Advent with a series of four Advent Wednesday Services at 7:00 p.m.:

- Wednesday, **December 14th** - Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m. Outdoor Worship - Singing Around the Advent Wreath
- Wednesday, **December 21st** - Bethlehem Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas worship service.

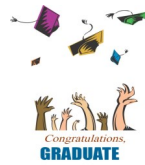
*"Prepare the Way of the Lord!" says John the Baptist during this Season. Make Wednesday Advent worship a part of your holiday traditions this Season - "Ah dearest Jesus, Holy Child, make thee a bed, soft, undefiled, within my heart that it may be a quiet chamber kept for Thee." (Martin Luther)*



**IMPORTANT! Spending Plan Meeting Today**—There will be a called congregation meeting today, December 11th, after worship for the purpose of voting on the 2023 Spending Plan for Grace. You should have received by email or U.S. mail a copy of the Spending Plan with a letter from Grace Council President, Robin Crowder. Please plan on attending this important meeting in the life of Grace!



**Christmas Decorating!** - Sunday, December 18, after church, we decorate the worship space in preparation for the Christmas Season. Come and take part—we need your help!



**College Graduation and Virginia Synod article!** We offer congratulations to Lily Pingel as she graduates from Roanoke College in December. Lily has also had an article published in the Virginia Synod on her research of the ELCA. The article is web-based and you can find it at: [www.vasynod.org/race-the-elca-and-the-virginia-synod/](http://www.vasynod.org/race-the-elca-and-the-virginia-synod/) God's peace and blessing on her graduation!



**Red Kettle Bell Ringer Support**—Rew Walck and Ron Myers will be ringing the bell December 14 and 21 at the big Wal-Mart retail door from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. Last year , we raised \$1,712 in four (4) days. Our goal is \$2,000. If you can come down and support the Kettle, we will let you ring our bell!!!



**First Sunday Fellowship Begins in January** - Beginning in January 2023, our Fellowship Team - as well as other Grace ministries and groups - will be hosting a First Sunday Fellowship each month. It is simply an opportunity for us to have a little extra time after worship to enjoy some light refreshments, and the Community and Fellowship we have in Christ here at Grace! We look forward to seeing you then!



Donations

**Cold Weather Donations Request** — We are collecting donations of socks, hats, scarves, gloves, toothbrushes and toothpaste for distribution at the Disciple's Kitchen breakfasts during the upcoming cold months. We would like to collect items for women, men, and children. New or clean, gently used items will be greatly appreciated! We have a box outside the office door for drop off. Any questions, please call Cindy Trauscht at 434-227-6100. Thank you!



Children's Concert

The **VMA Holiday Recital** will be at 2:00 p.m. AND 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 18 . They would love for you to attend, see student progress made over the past year and listen to some holiday music.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Adult Sunday School!** Pastor Karen Van Stee leads an engaging study of Matthew's gospel at **8:30** a.m. *Please note the new, earlier starting time.* Come join us!



FOOD PANTRY Volunteers

**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 **twenty-nine deliveries** thus far, fourteen to Main Street United Methodist, and fifteen to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need.

**Overall, we have given well over 3075 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off



Thank you to all who helped with putting up the **Advent Wreath**. In the picture.. Lee Lynch.. Glen Gray... Charley Wilson... and Jerry Kite. Missing from the picture but helped.. Fred Biggers.. Pastor Paul.



**Second Yoga Class Offered at Grace** - Shelton Sprouse, who had the "Blue Moon Yoga" studio on Main Street until the pandemic, has been offering a Yoga class Saturday mornings at Grace. It is designed for beginners and senior adults, for "physical activity and mindfulness." The class is offered from 11:00 a.m.—12:15 a.m. Saturday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. Please note that the Yoga class will be in the **Seminar Room** on the following date: December 3, December 10, January 7 and January 28. A donation may be given, but is not required.

**He will be offering a second class on Wednesday evenings** from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. in the Seminar Room. A donation may be given, but is not required.



#### **Covid Policy at Grace**

- Masking is optional during worship.
- We will continue to post the CDC "risk" color (green [low], yellow [medium] or orange [high risk] in the narthex
- There is a "social distance" section available in the front right of the worship space
- Holy Communion will continue to be offered by coming up front and receiving bread and individual cups of wine; pastor and assistants will mask when the CDC "risk" color is orange (high)
- Masks and hand sanitizer continue to be available in the narthex.

#### ***We continue to encourage:***

- Vaccination and keeping up-to-date with current shots
- Staying home when not feeling well, especially with flu and other infections on the rise this time of year
- Masking for Covid, flu or other infections.



## GRACE - WARM Cold Weather Shelter

**Collecting Toiletries** (travel/hotel-sized: shampoo/conditioner, soap, toothpaste, lotion)

**Collecting Breakfast and Snack Food Items** (cereal, fruit cups, nutra-grain bars, fruit juice boxes, nabs, individual portion bags of chips, cookies)

**Box located on back table in the Nave**

### **Volunteer Opportunities January 23-30**

***Sign-up Sheets are located in the back of the Nave before and after services***

- **Set-up teams:** January 22 and/or 23 to organize and set-up check-in, Fellowship Hall tables, cots, chairs, dividers.
- **Check-In teams:** 3-4 volunteers/night; assist Staff Host and welcome guests - make them feel welcome, let them know we care, participate in time of fellowship – let them know that God’s love is present in their lives! Make coffee!
- **Shower Host:** 1 volunteer/night; ensure guests have needed toiletries, towel; monitor shower schedule and collect towels
- **Meal Teams:** Join a team to provide dinner for about 50 people; volunteer to prepare food, serve and/or clean-up. Assist preparing sack lunches, if time/able. January 23 - 29 - we have 7 Teams scheduled; more volunteers are welcome to fill out teams. Welcoming individual volunteers as well as whole teams! If you're interested in leading a team, let me know!
- **Overnight Hosts:** 2 volunteers/night; assist the Staff Host overnight (in-person OR by telephone); in morning, make coffee and put out breakfast items and sack lunches, Clean up after.
- **Clean-up Team:** light cleaning duties. WARM will have guests complete basic chores (sweeping, mopping if needed, removing garbage). We will come in during the day (after the guests are gone,) to check the area, follow-up as needed - Lysol bathrooms, showers; wash/dry/fold towels.

### **Questions? Suggestions?**

Please contact Susan Myers 434-760-1660  
or [sparkelmyers@gmail.com](mailto:sparkelmyers@gmail.com)

# ADVENT

*A Season of Preparation*

*Life of Grace Church*  
*December 11-18 2022*

	DATE	TIME	MEETING
Sunday	12/11	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.  10:50 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Matthew—Adult Bible Class</b>  <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Service of Holy Communion</i> <i>In Person and via You Tube</i> <b>Pastor Paul Pingel</b> Presiding and Preaching <b>Congregational Meeting</b>  <b>Coffee Fellowship Zoom</b>  <b>Confirmation Class</b>  <b>Warm Shelter</b> (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday	12/14	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>Prayer Group</b> (Chapel)  <b>Yoga</b> (Seminar Room)  <b>Advent Vespers—Outdoors</b> at Grace
Thursday	12/15	8:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	<b>Newcomers Club</b> (Fellowship Hall)  <b>Grace Walkers</b>  <b>Bridge Club</b> (Fellowship Hall)  <b>CCEJ Group Zoom Meeting</b>
Saturday	12/17	11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconciliation</b> (Constitution Park)  <b>Yoga</b> (Seminar Room)
Sunday	12/18	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.  10:50 a.m. 11:00 a.m.  2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	<b>Matthew—Adult Bible Class</b>  <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Service of Holy Communion</i> <i>In Person and via You Tube</i> <b>Pastor Paul Pingel</b> Presiding and Preaching  <b>Coffee Fellowship Zoom</b>  <b>Confirmation Class</b>  <b>VMA Holiday Recital</b> (Fellowship Hall) <b>VMA Holiday Recital</b> (Fellowship Hall)

**Monday**

Isaiah 8:16—9:1  
2 Peter 1:1-11  
Luke 22:39-53  
Morning Psalm 122, Evening 40

**Tuesday**

Isaiah 9:2-7  
2 Peter 1:12-21  
Luke 22:54-69  
Morning Psalm 33, Evening 85

**Wednesday**

Isaiah 9:8-17  
2 Peter 2:1-10a  
Mark 2:1-8  
Morning Psalm 50, Evening 53

**Thursday**

Isaiah 9:18-10:4  
2 Peter 2:10b-16  
Matthew 3:1-12  
Morning Psalm 18:1-20, Evening 126

**Friday**

Isaiah 10:5-19  
2 Peter 2:17-22  
Matthew 11:2-15  
Morning Psalm 102, Evening 130

**Saturday**

Isaiah 10:20-27  
Jude 17-25  
Luke 3:1-9  
Morning Psalm 90, Evening 80



Members of Grace Congregational Council



*Robin Crowder, President (540-476-0180)*  
*Nancy Schwiesow, Vice-President (301-943-0888)*  
*Bob Barrette (434-760-4419), Fred Biggers (434-981-1954),*  
*Jack Eckstrom (240-344-3176), Jean Morgan (540-649-4422),*  
*Susan Myers (434-760-1660), Andrew Sell (612-695-8361),*  
*Stephen Van Stee (540-325-0772), Karen Walck (765-480-9920)*  
*Ron Almarode, Treasurer*  
*Vivian Proctor, Secretary*  
*Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer*  
*Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary*

*Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor*  
*Email: [pastorpingel@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpingel@gmail.com)*

*Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music*  
*Email: [mickhdking@aol.com](mailto:mickhdking@aol.com)*

*Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary*  
*Email: [Grace.lc@comcast.net](mailto: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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*Internet: [www.gracewaynesboro.org](http://www.gracewaynesboro.org)*  
*Telephone: 540.949.6171*