

December 10, 2023

*Second Sunday
In Advent*



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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.org
+

Worship:
Divine Service
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Adult Bible Study &
Sunday School:
9:30 am
(Grace Hall)

+

Pastor:
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:
Karen Suter

Organist
Patty Barnes

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 10, 2023

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Today we will observe The Lord's Supper...*The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

PRELUDE

"Prepare the Way"
"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

setting: A. Organ
Setting: J. Bender

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

LSB 343



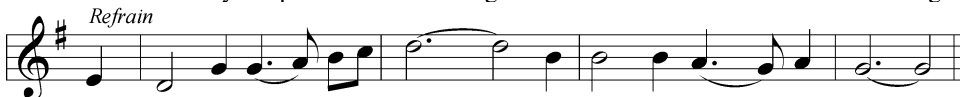
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



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 should 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, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
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!

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

- A** I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
- C** **Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**
- A** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
- C** **and in His word I hope.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** With hope in the Lord's promises of renewal by His Word and Spirit, let us together confess our sins to Him.
- C** **Out of the depths I cry to You, Lord!**
- P** Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to my pleas for mercy!
- C** **If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, I would have no hope.**
- P** But with You there is forgiveness, therefore we place our trust in You.
- C** **Restore us, Lord God, and set us free from our sins.**
- P** Renew us in Your hope, that we may wait for Your salvation.
- C** **Because of Your steadfast love for us in Christ, redeem us from all our iniquities. Amen.**

P As we wait for Jesus' final coming, we place our hope and our confidence in the promises of His Word and find our home in the presence of His Spirit. Confessing our sins and turning away from them through lives of repentance, we are assured again this day of the Lord's steadfast love and plentiful redemption for us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT

A Restore us, O God;

C let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

A Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

C You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

A You brought a vine out of Egypt;

C it took deep root and filled the land.

A Restore us, O God of hosts;

C let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A Restore us, O God;

C let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

KYRIE

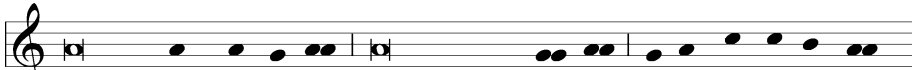
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



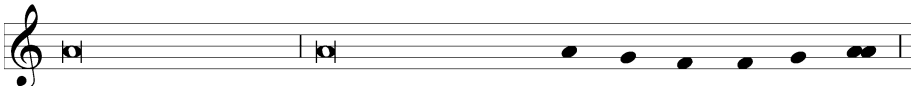
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



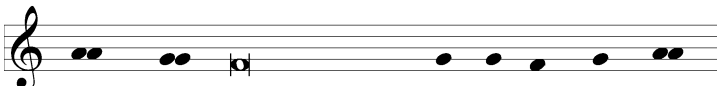
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,

C **that by His coming we may be found in Him, fully redeemed and at peace;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1–11

The word is read...

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 9

A Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

C **that glory may dwell in our land.**

A LORD, You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

C **You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.**

A You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger.

C **Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us!**

A Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

C **Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?**

A Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.

C **Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

A Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

C **that glory may dwell in our land.**

A Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

C **Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

A Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

C **Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

C **that glory may dwell in our land.**

EPISTLE READING

2 Peter 3:8–14

The word is read...

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SR. CHOIR, 8:00 & 11:00 services

"Lift Up Your Heads"

J. Martin, J. Paige

Lift up your heads, you Everlasting doors; open up and Let the King of glory come in.

Who is the King of glory?

The Lord of Hosts!

Alleluia, let us sing to the one

Eternal King.

Alleluia evermore, to the King

And Lord of lords.

He is the King of glory,

The Lord of Hosts!

Let the King of glory in.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

G **Glory You, O Lord.**

The word is read...

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

CONFIRMATION, Nathaniel Johnson, *11:00 AM Service*

P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R *Yes, I do.*

P Do you renounce the devil?

R *Yes, I renounce him.*

P Do you renounce all his works?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

A Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

R *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

A Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

R *Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

A Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

R *I do.*

A Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R *I do.*

A Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

A Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

P Nathaniel, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

R Amen.

Stand

P Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing this Your son, to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, he may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P Peace † be with you.

C Amen.

CREED, 8:00 & 9:30 AM

P In the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, echoing the proclamation of John the Baptist, we confess Jesus to be the Savior, the One who fulfills God's promises.

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting**

righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

Sit

HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB 344



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 Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, 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.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

SERMON

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As we wait in love for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His advent people, bring our prayers before Him.

Father in heaven, You prepare a heavenly home for all who trust in You and come into Your presence through faith in Your Son. By His coming into this world to save us from the devastation of our sins, dying and rising again to make us eternally Yours, we have been reconciled to You. We praise You, Father, for this amazing gift of love and ask that Your Holy Spirit keep Your steadfast love secure in our hearts throughout our days of waiting. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C To You alone our prayers we bring!

A Knowing that You have come once into this world, Lord Jesus, we are confident that You will come again. On that glorious Day when we are all gathered before You, when every knee will bow to You and every tongue confess Your holy name, we will receive the restoration of all things in heaven and on earth that Your Word has promised. Until Your final coming, O Lord, keep us secure in our salvation. Remind us that our waiting is because of Your patience, and that You call us to use this time we have been given to share Your precious Gospel with the world You died and rose again to save. Stir up the hearts of all who hear Your Word this day, that many will come to saving faith and experience the comfort of Your presence in their lives. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C To You alone our prayers we bring!

P As wanderers in this land, O Lord, we experience various types of brokenness and pain, suffering and grief. We lift before You in prayer those we love, who are also loved by You. For those longing for food and shelter, grant Your mercy. For those needing protection and peace, grant Your Spirit. We pray for those in our families and connected to our family of faith who have special concerns of body and spirit, [especially . . .]. Grant that all who wander find their home in You alone, O Lord. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C To You alone our prayers we bring!

A Comforting Spirit, fill our land, our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and all our interactions with others with Your blessings. Allow this season of waiting and preparation to refocus our hearts and minds upon Your mission for our congregation and for us as individual members of this household of faith. Stir up our hearts to make known to all the wonders You have done, so that more souls may be brought to saving faith and many would join with us in saying, "Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!"

C To You alone our prayers we bring!

P Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into the good and gracious hands of our sovereign God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who lives and reigns, both now and forever.

C Amen.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"Make Straight the Crooked Places"

C. Curtis

MISSION MINUTE

Sowers of the Kingdom
Church Mortgage

John Kinney

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 176

C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa-lem.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might be found by Him without spot or blemish and at peace when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 178



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

AGNUS DEI

LSB 180

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, grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"

LSB 619

1 Thy bod-y, giv'n for me, O Sav-ior, Thy blood which
 2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u-nit-ed; I live in
 3 Who can con-demn me now? For sure-ly The Lord is
 4 Though death may threat-en with dis-as-ter, It can-not
 5 My heart has now be-come Thy dwell-ing, O bless-ed,
 Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and
 Thee and Thou in me. No sor-row fills my
 nigh, who jus-ti-fies. No hell I fear, and
 rob me of my cheer; For He who is of
 ho-ly Trin-i-ty. With an-gels I, Thy



strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.
 soul, de - light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.
 thus se - cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.
 death the mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.
 prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.



Refrain
 Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

VOLUNTARY

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"
 "Communion Contemplation"

Setting: N. Lebeque
 L. Smith

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 182



Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in steadfast love sent Your only-begotten Son into this world of sin, we thank You that for His sake You look upon us “without spot or blemish, and at peace.”

G **We praise You for Your patience and rejoice in Your redemption!**

P We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

G **and in His word I hope.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G **Amen.**

HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB 347



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



’neath their sor - rows’ load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Lift Up Your Heads"

L. Smith

Acknowledgements

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.

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