

December 3, 2023

*First Sunday
In Advent*



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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Pastor:
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:
Karen Suter

Organist
Patty Barnes

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 3, 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; I 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

"Savior of the Nations Come"
"Prepare the Royal Highway"

setting: W. Wold
Setting: R. Farlee

WELCOME

Stand

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

- A** Our soul waits for the LORD;
C **He is our help and our shield.**
- A** For our heart is glad in Him,
C **because we trust in His holy name.**
- A** Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
C **even as we hope in You.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Confident in His steadfast love, let us confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of waiting on You and clinging to Your promises, we impatiently go our own way. Instead of loving our neighbors as ourselves, we put our wants first and serve our interests instead of Yours, O God. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** "You are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:7–8). Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, taking away our guilt and giving us His righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, our Savior and King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

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!

HOLY BAPTISM, 11:00 AM, Please see insert in your bulletin

✠ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ✠

Stand

INTROIT

Psalm 25:1-3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.

- A** Behold, your king is coming to you;
- C** **righteous and having salvation.**

- A** To You, O LORD,
- C** **I lift up my soul.**

- A** O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;
- C** **let not my enemies exult over me.**

- A** Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;
- C** **they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

**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.**

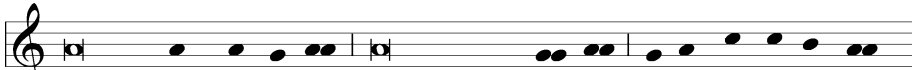
- A** Behold, your king is coming to you;
- C** **righteous and having salvation.**

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.



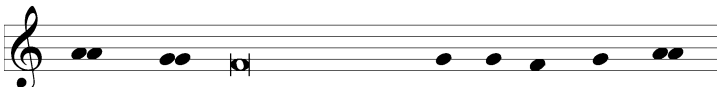
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



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 Your power, O Lord, and come to us

C **as we wait for Your arrival.**

P Protect us by Your hand that we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins

C **and saved by Your mighty deliverance;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1–9

The word is read...

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

A Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

A Behold, your king is coming to you;

C **righteous and having salvation.**

A Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **From the house of the Lord we bless You.**

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

The word is read...

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE

Hebrews 12:1a, 2a

P Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates!

G **And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 11:1–10

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

G **Glory You, O Lord.**

The word is read...

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CREED, 8:00 & 9:30 Services

P As we begin a new Church Year and reflect on how Jesus' coming fulfilled the Father's plan for our salvation, we speak the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning. It relates the loving work of God the Father for us. He has created and still preserves us, and in His grace, He has brought us to the beginning of a new Church Year.

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

P What does this mean?

G **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Sit

HYMN

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

LSB 332



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
 Back to God He ran His course.
 Into hell His road went down,
 Back then to His throne and crown.

7 From the manger newborn light
 Shines in glory through the night.
 Darkness there no more resides;
 In this light faith now abides.

6 For You are the Father's Son
 Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
 By Your mighty pow'r make whole
 All our ills of flesh and soul.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
 Glory to the Son, our king,
 Glory to the Spirit be
 Now and through eternity.

SERMON

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** As we wait in hope for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His Advent people, bring our prayers before Him.
Gracious Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your goodness and mercy that follow us all the days of our lives. You are our God; we are Your people. You have purchased and won us from sin and death by the sacrifice of Your Son upon the cross and by His rising from the grave. As He now sits at Your right hand, exalted over all things, we wait expectantly for the Day of His revealing. We wait in hope for the Lord!
- C He is our help and our shield.**
- A** Mighty King and loving Savior, we thank You for the authority You have over all things in heaven and on earth. To a world in disarray and for a people filled with despair, You alone offer hope, peace, and certainty that all things are in Your hands. Help us to trust in You, Lord Jesus, even as we wait for the redemption You will provide on the Day You come again to judge the living and the dead. Bless the land in which we live and all those who serve for the benefit of us all. Be present in our homes, our schools, and our workplaces that Your provision be known to all. We wait in hope for the Lord!
- C He is our help and our shield.**
- P** Healer of the broken and sustainer of the weary, grant the comfort of Your Holy Spirit to all who are suffering in heart, body, mind, and spirit. Remind those who are downtrodden that they are never alone, and use us as Your people to reach out in care and compassion to those in our family, our community, and within this congregation who need Your healing mercies, [especially . . .]. We wait in hope for the Lord!
- C He is our help and our shield.**
- A** Lord Jesus, we are Your waiting, expectant, hope-filled people. We anticipate the Day of Your revealing when Your saving work will be fully complete and when You renew and restore all things in heaven and on earth. Until that glorious Day, help us to rely upon Your grace alone, which declares us guiltless in Your sight through faith in Your promises. 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, "We wait in hope for the Lord!"

C **He is our help and our shield.**

P Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into Your merciful hands, for You, O Father, live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

PAX DOMINI

P Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"Oh, Come, O Come Emmanuel"

setting: J. Bender

8:00 and 9:30 AM

"Oh, Come, O Come Emmanuel"

arr. D. Blair

11:00 AM

Stand

OFFERTORY

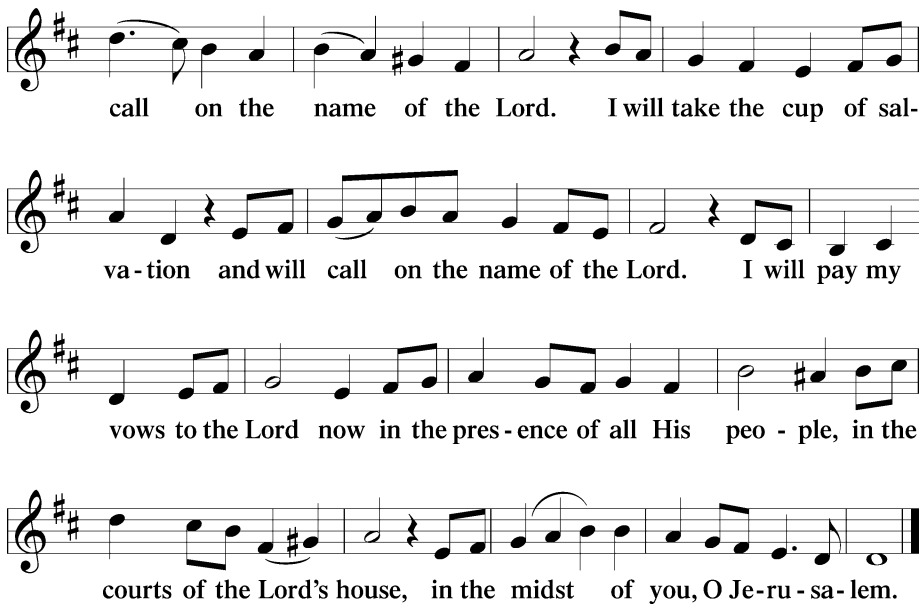
LSB 176



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, for whose arrival we expectantly wait. With the crowds who cry, "Hosanna!" we humble ourselves before Him as the King who comes to save us from sin and redeem our lives for eternity. 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, O Lord our God, for the mercy You show us in Jesus Christ, Your Son and our King. As we remember His death and resurrection and await His final coming, prepare our hearts to receive the redemption He provides through His body that is given and His blood that is shed for the forgiveness of sins.
- P** For our heart is glad in Him,
C **because we trust in His holy name.**
- P** Hear us as we pray in His holy name and in the timeless words He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER, 8:00 and 9:30 Services

- 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



C 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

"Once He Came in Blessing"

LSB 333

1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -

dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,

Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -

save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

VOLUNTARY

"Once He Came in Blessing"
"Adagio"

setting: R. Nelson
arr. L. Smith



C 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.
 Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood.
- C** **Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of waiting that, on the Day of His arrival, we may rejoice forever as those You have redeemed;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,

C **even as we hope in You.**

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.

C **Amen.**

HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Hosanna Now Through Advent”

setting: D. Busarow

Sermon Notes

1. What did the sermon teach you about the GOSPEL?
(The grace of God and what God has done for me. See the Catechism, Question 8, pg. 52)

2. What did the sermon teach you about the LAW of God?
(My sins, weaknesses and my shortcomings. See the Catechism, Question 7 p. 52)

3. Apply the message to your daily life. How might you think, act, or believe differently?

Advent Midweek Services
Wednesdays at 12:00 & 7:00 PM

December 6, 2023

Waiting For Rescue, Genesis 49: 18

December 13, 2023

Waiting For Patience, Psalm 37: 5-7

December 20, 2023

Waiting For Joy, Isaiah 25: 8-9

December 25, Christmas Morning

Waiting With Hope, Psalm 33:18-22

Acknowledgements

11:00 a m. Susan Messersmith, trumpet.

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

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