

December 15, 2024

*Third Sunday in
Advent*



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

1600 Old Trolley Rd
Summerville, SC
29485-8275

Office:
(843) 871-5444

E-mail:
office@
gracesummerville.org

Website:
[www.gracesummerville](http://www.gracesummerville.org)
.org

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

Adult Bible Study &
Sunday School:
9:30 am

+

Pastor:
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:
Karen Suter

Organist:
Patty Barnes

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 15, 2024

✠ 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. The purple cup is grape juice. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

PRELUDE

"Partita on People Look East "

setting: J. Bertolozzi

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

setting: J. Bender

WELCOME

Stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

John 1:5, 9; 15:10-11; Psalm 100:1-5

P We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

G **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

A The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means "rejoice," as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the

joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

C The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

P Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

C Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

A Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

C Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

A For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

C and His faithfulness to all generations."

Three Advent Candles are Lit

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357 sts. 5-7



5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the



wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -



leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.' Tune: French, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Philippians 4:4-7

- P** As we gather today to hear God’s Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, we come before Him as people who are broken by an imperfect world, burdened by sin, and bearing guilt for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. In the midst of our condition, the Word of God speaks to us. In today’s Epistle, we hear, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”
- C** **We confess we do not rejoice in everything; instead, we let the weight of this world bring us down. Instead of seeing all good things from Your hand, at times we focus on that which does not give You glory nor bring lasting joy to our lives.**
- A** “Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.”
- C** **We confess we have at times been unreasonable in our relationships with others and in our relationship with You. Our witness to Your grace has faltered.**
- A** “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”
- C** **We confess we have been anxious about our sin and our circumstances of life. Create in us a clean heart and renew in us a right spirit that we may abide in Your love and that Your joy may be in us, and our joy may be full.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

KYRIE

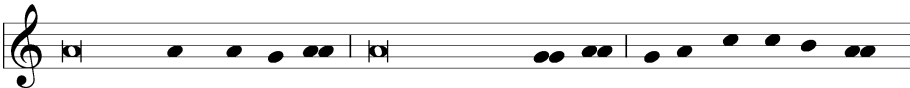
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



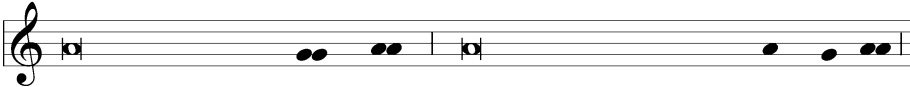
C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



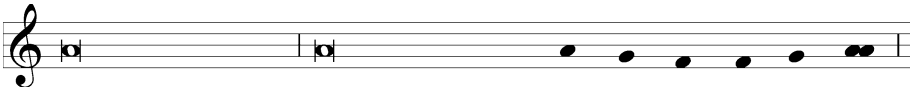
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



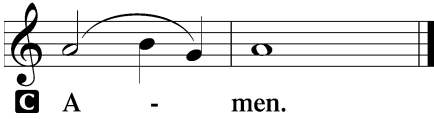
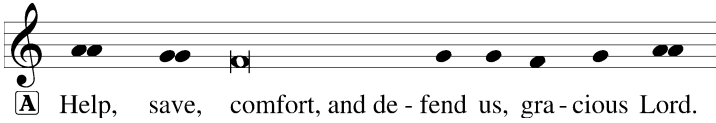
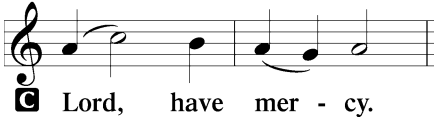
C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14–20

The Word is read...

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 2



you covered | all their sin.
³You withdrew | all your wrath;*
 you turned from your hot | anger.
⁴Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,*
 and put away your indignation | toward us!
⁵Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*"

Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?
⁶Will you not revive | us again,*
 that your people may re- | joice in you?
⁷Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
 and grant us your sal- | vation.
⁸Let 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.
⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
 that glory may dwell | in our land.
¹⁰Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;*
 righteousness and peace kiss each | other.
¹¹Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*
 and righteousness looks down | from the sky.
¹²Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
 and our land will yield its | increase.
¹³Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
 and make his foot- | steps a way.

THE EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:4-7

The Word is read...

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Stand
VERSE

Luke 7:18-35

- P** Alleluia. Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
- G** who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:18-28

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.
- G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read...

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- G** **Praise to You, O Christ**

Sit

HYMN

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

LSB 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 △ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.; Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89, Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

NICENE CREED

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Philippians 4:4

P Let us pray for the church, for the people of God, and for all people according to their needs.

We praise You, O Lord, for the joys You have given us in this life. For each day You grant us in this life, we rejoice in You always,

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

A For the opportunities You give us to share Your Word to children, family, friends, neighbors, and communities, and for the privilege we carry to model Your love and to give a reason for the hope that we have, we rejoice in You always,

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

P For those who face their days with struggle and sorrows, especially those who ask for our prayers, [including . . .], that even though in this world we have trouble, we take heart that Christ has overcome the world. We rejoice in You always,

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

A For those who serve our nation here and across the world in the armed forces, for those who keep our community safe through law and order, for those You use to make people well in times of physical and mental distress, and for all vocations in which the gifts and abilities You have given are used on behalf of others, we rejoice in You always,

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

P For the uniqueness of the season of this wintertime, for the blessing of this Advent season of the Church Year as we prepare to welcome again the Savior sent and born for us, and for Your presence and blessings freely given to Your people each and every season, we rejoice in You always,

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

A Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"Be Comforted, My People"

L. Smith

MISSION MINUTE

Financial Peace University

Aaron & Jodell Jenkins

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 159

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.**

PROPER PREFACE

- 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 escape from the wrath to be revealed 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 out of perfect love sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior who we look to, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Instill in us the joy of receiving Your healing grace through Christ's body and blood given and shed for us.

C 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."

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."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 180

G 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

LSB 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955
 Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia
 Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811
 Tune: Public domain

VOLUNTARY

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"
 "Thou Didst Leave thy Throne"

arr. D. Paxton
 arr. D. Wagner

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. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

CLOSING SENTENCES

John 1:5, 9

- P** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- C** **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

BENEDICTION

- 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.**



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
 △ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
 Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852-1933, alt.
 Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796-1867
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

arr. E. Broughton

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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tune: Veni Emmanuel, French 15th century © 1982 Concordia Publishing House;

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Breaks the Darkness"- arr. D. Paxton; tune: Beach Spring, Early American tune © 2000

Lorenz Publishing Co.; "Thou Didst Leave thy Throne"- arr. D. Wagner; tune: Margaret, T.

Matthews © 2013 Lorenz Publishing Co.; "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" arr. E. Broughton;

Tune: Hymn to Joy , L.V. Beethoven © 1990 Lorenz Publishing.