



WAIT UPON
THE LORD

— *with* —

Faith



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about “Proclaiming God’s grace through faith and love.” You will find a red attendance folder at the end of your pew; please sign the form inside and pass the folder on to those seated next to you; ushers will collect the forms following the last service. Whether you are a first time visitor or have worshipped here often, we invite you to worship with us again.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Today’s Theme: “Wait Upon the Lord *With Faith*”

Today in Worship

- Theme Verse for today: “And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel be-forehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.’” (Galatians 3:8)
- God’s Grace to you as you come to the Lord’s house for worship this day.

Ringling of the Bells Welcome

Invocation and Call to Worship

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** Amen.
- P** Wait upon the Lord.
- C** Be strong and courageous.
- P** Wait upon the Lord. That’s what Abraham did, even though he was about a hundred years old.
- C** And Sarah’s womb was barren.
- P** Still, Abraham waited in faith.
- C** Fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.
- P** Wait upon the Lord.
- C** Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P** On this first week of Advent we light a candle and call it Hope. Paul writes in Romans that creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.
- C** **For creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the One who subjected it, in hope.**
- P** In hope that creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.
- C** **We call this candle Hope for it represents Paul’s hope and ours as well.**
- P** We hope for liberation from sin’s bondage and the glorious freedom which is ours in Jesus.
- C** **In His name we put our hope!**

The first Advent candle is lit as the hymn is begun.

Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #331
“The Advent of Our King”

1. The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.
2. The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant’s form puts on To set His servants free.
3. O Zion’s daughter, rise To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise The peace He comes to bring.
4. As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And His true members all unite With Him in heav’n to reign.
5. Before the dawning day Let sin’s dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.
6. All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

Confession and Absolution

P God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C **We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with you. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask you, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us patiently waiting for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

You are invited, for a moment, to meditate on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.

P Believe and receive the good news! God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ who came and indeed, will come again.

C **Amen.**

P Wait upon the Lord.

C **Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!**

Kyrie

P Lord, have mercy.

C **Give us patience.**

P Christ, have mercy.

C **Give us patience and peace.**

P Lord, have mercy.

C **Give us patience and peace for the living of these days.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in the night of despair. Show forth your power and might, just as you did in the days of Abraham and Sarah; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit—God forever.

C Amen.

Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #332, vv. 1-4
“Savior of the Nations, Come”

1. Savior of the nations, come, Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh— Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.
3. Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.
4. Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Genesis 17:1-9

L A reading from Genesis, chapter seventeen.

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” ³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴ “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

⁹ And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Romans 4:13-21

P A reading from Romans, chapter four.

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Matthew 1:16-25

L A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter one.

¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book #341

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
2. A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
3. How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!

The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

4. Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!

Sermon

Canticle

Lutheran Service Book #934, verses 1-2

“My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”

1. My soul now magnifies the Lord; My spirit leaps for joy in Him.
He keeps me in His kind regard, And I am blest for time to come.
2. For He alone who shows such might Has done amazing things to me.
His mercy flows; His name like light Remains in time perpetually.

Offering

We encourage you to place your offering in the dropbox in the narthex before service. As the usher brings the offering forward at this time you may also hold it up and place it in the plate as the usher walks by. Please also use this time for prayer and reflection upon what we have heard from the Lord's Word this day.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- P** Heavenly Father, we wait for You.
- C** **More than watchmen wait for the morning --**
- P** More than watchmen wait for the morning.
- C** **Lead us in Your truth and teach us.**
- P** For You are the God of our salvation.
- C** **For You we wait all the day long.**
- P** O God, inspire us to wait for You faithfully.
- C** **Serve You joyfully.**

- P** And give to others generously.
- C** **Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.**
- P** Courage for the fainthearted.
- C** **Hope for the discouraged.**
- P** And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.
- C** **Amen.**

The 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.**

11:00 a.m. Service

Luther's Morning Prayer

- C** **I thank Thee my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ Thy dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

7:00 p.m. Service

Luther's Evening Prayer

- C** **I thank Thee my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ Thy dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Thy hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

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

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #332, vv. 5-8

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

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.

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

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

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



Midweek Worship ~ 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 1

Wednesday, December 8

Wednesday, December 15

Wednesday, December 22

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Friday, December 24, 2021

4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship Services

Saturday, December 25, 2021

10:00 am



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
630 N. Monroe Street
Monroe, Michigan