



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about **“Proclaiming God’s grace through faith and love.”**

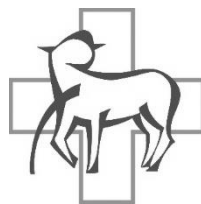
If you are a visitor, please make yourself at home and don’t hesitate to ask a question. There will be the celebration of Holy Communion in the **8:00a.m. service** today. If you are not a member of Grace and desire to commune, please speak with the pastor **before the service**. If you are physically unable to commune at the altar, the pastor would be happy to serve you in your pew. Please, notify an usher before the service begins.

THE 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 1, 2024

Today in Worship

- Though a full month remains before we turn our calendars to 2025, today we can wish a “happy new year” in the life of the church. The Advent season begins a new church year and is a time of preparation, as the Latin “Adventus” means an arrival or coming of someone. More than preparing for the coming of just anyone, here we prepare for the Savior of the Nations, come. As we get hearts and minds ready for the Christmas crescendo to come celebrating Christ’s humble birth, we also remain prepared in this season and always as He promises to come again.
- In the back of the worship folder during December will be a comforting thought about Advent and the Communion of Saints.



Ringing of the Bells

Announcements (10:30am Service)

Welcome

Opening Hymn

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

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Jn 1:5, Gen 3:15; Ps 33

P Each week in Advent, we light a 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.

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

P The first Advent candle is known as the prophecy candle or the candle of hope. We hear again the first promise and prophecy made in the Garden of Eden after the fall into sin: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." The Lord has kept His Word through the mouths of prophets who, for generations, pointed people to the promised Savior to come.

C **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

P Guided by the light of hope, we respond with the psalmist: "Our soul waits for the LORD;

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

P For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

C **Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You."**

The first Advent candle is lit.

Hymn

LSB #357, vv1-2 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

1. O Come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Confession & Absolution

Jer 33:14-16; Lk 21:28

P As we begin the Advent season—a time of preparation for the coming of our Savior and a time of pondering God’s great love for us given in His Son—we also prepare ourselves to come before Him in humility and with honesty. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P The prophet Jeremiah proclaims, “The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made. . . . And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

C **We confess we have not rightly rejoiced in the promises that the Lord made and fulfilled and have instead found our fulfillment in the temporal things of our lives and this world. We have sought our own rightness instead of the Lord’s righteousness. Forgive us.**

P As Jesus speaks of the time of His return, He calls His followers to “straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

C **We confess we have not remained ready for Your return, nor realized time is short for the work You’ve called us to do. We have prioritized other matters instead of Your Word, relied on other things instead of Your presence, and in our thoughts, words, and actions have chosen to live our way instead of by Your commands. Forgive us.**

P The Lord is our righteousness. He alone establishes hearts blameless in holiness at His coming. Redemption draws near. We are declared righteous, blameless, and redeemed because of the living, dying, and rising of our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 25:1-10



P To you, | O Lord, *

C I lift | up my soul.

P O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame; *

C let not my enemies exult | over me.

P Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame; *

C they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.

P Make me to know your ways, | O Lord; *

C teach me | your paths.

P Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my sal- | vation; *

C for you I wait all the | day long.

P Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your | steadfast love, *

C for they have been | from of old.

P Remember not the sins of my youth or my trans- | gressions; *

C according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, | O Lord!

P Good and upright | is the Lord; *

C therefore he instructs sinners | in the way.

P He leads the humble in | what is right, *

C and teaches the humble | his way.

P All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love
and | faithfulness, *

C for those who keep his covenant and his testi- | monies.

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

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. From everlasting to everlasting You are our God,
and You come to Your people. In Your Word and in the flesh of Your
only-begotten Son, You come that we may know forgiveness,
righteousness, and redemption.

C Prepare us to receive You in this season and always, that
our hearts may be made blameless and filled with holiness;

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.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

“The Lord’s eternal covenant.”

L The Old Testament Reading for the 1st Sunday in Advent is
from Jeremiah, chapter 33.

¹⁴ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will
fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of
Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous
Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and
righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it
will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

“Lives of the faithful made ready for Jesus’ return.”

L The Epistle Reading is from 1st Thessalonians, chapter three.

⁹ For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Psalm 24:7

P Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,

C that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 19:28-40

“The Triumphal Entry”

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 19th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁸ And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here.

³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” ³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” ³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed *8:00am service*

The Apostles Creed *10:30am service*

Message for Children from God’s Word

Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book #332, vv. 5-8
“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Sermon

Offertory ~ “Create in Me”

Lutheran Service Book #192-193

Offering

“And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all.” – 1 Thessalonians 3:12



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 morning.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Responses after each petition:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

- P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

(10:30 a.m. Services continue page 11 of the Worship Folder.)

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8:00 a.m. Service

Service of the Sacrament

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation 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 first to speak with the pastor.

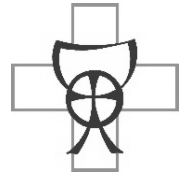
Preface *sung*

LSB p. 194

Proper Preface for Advent

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should...

... evermore praising You and saying:



Sanctus *“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

LSB p. 195

Lord’s Prayer *Spoken*

LSB p. 196

The Words of our Lord *Spoken*

LSB p. 197

Pax Domini *“The Peace of Our Lord”*

LSB p. 197

Agnus Dei *“Lamb of God”*

LSB p. 198

Distribution Hymns

“Once He Came in Blessing”

LSB # 333

“Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB # 349

“O Bride of Christ, Rejoice”

LSB # 335

Nunc Dimittis *“Song of Simeon”*

LSB p. 199-200

Thanksgiving

LSB p. 200

The Closing Prayer

P Let us pray. We thank and praise You for coming to us now through the gifts of Word and Sacrament for the forgiveness of our sins and nourishment of faith. Enable us and equip us to increase and abound in love for one another so that You may establish our hearts blameless in holiness before You, our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus.

C Amen.

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.

Advent & the Communion of Saints – Dec. 2024

In this Advent season we consider our sins and turn in repentance towards the mercy of our Savior Jesus.

This is all part of our preparation and anticipation of Jesus' 2nd Coming. It is also practical to say, we spend a lot of time in this season thinking about Christmas



and the holiday celebrations. On one hand, it is a great blessing to gather and celebrate and share gifts and big meals. So many opportunities for joy! On the other hand, this season can come across with so much difficulty for those dealing with the stresses of all the change and expectation. This season also brings to the forefront so much loss and grief when we struggle to handle the absence of loved ones.

What are we to do with this all? I would commend to you the Communion of Saints. We confess this weekly in the Apostles Creed. We confess that we believe as saints in Christ we are bound together, one to another, as the body of Christ. I believe this is an especially wonderful teaching for us to remember in a season like this when we are missing so many of the absent saints. It is wonderful because it reminds us of the singular thing on this earth, right here, right now, that can bring us closer to those saints we miss so dearly.

Every time you approach the Lord's Table for Holy Communion I want you to think of the Communion of Saints. I want you to see the earthly saints with your own two eyes and know that they are one with you as we partake of the body and blood of Christ. I would also have you envision that at the same time in heaven all of the beloved saints are also in Communion with us. You can almost picture the Communion rail that we kneel at extending through time and space into heaven, and the saints in white robes in heaven are also at that rail with us. We commune together as we receive the body and blood of Christ. That brings us as close as we'll ever be in what remains of this life. Don't forget it! Rejoice in it! It's wonderful.