



Grace

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Monroe, MI 48162
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www.gracelutheranmonroe.org



*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.*

You can follow the whole service here in this folder as well as on the displays. Some parts of the service will be found in the burgundy “Lutheran Service Book” hymnals in the pew back.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 5, 2021

Today in Worship

- Preparing for Christmas, we buy presents, attend social gatherings, decorate, make plans to gather with family, and some will brace for the pain of grief that can be so difficult this time of year. In the middle of all our preparing, today the voice of John the Baptist rings out, “Prepare the way of the Lord.” Undergirding all the preparing we are doing is preparing for the Lord. John calls us to “bear fruits in keeping with repentance.” In worship, we do just that. We repent. We turn again to God, seeking His mercy, receiving His forgiveness, partaking of His grace. This leads to bearing the fruit of the Spirit. John highlights the fruit of generosity and contentment. What fruit is God calling you to bear as you prepare for Christmas?
- God’s Grace to you as you partake of Your one and only Savior Jesus this day.

Prelude

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #343
“Prepare the Royal Highway”

1. Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory Fore-told in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!

2. God's people see Him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

3. Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him!
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

4. His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

Invocation & Opening Sentences

Mal. 3:1,6; Lk 3:4; Phil. 1:6, adapt.

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

C Amen.

P The LORD says, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

C We thank You, O Lord!

P The LORD says, "The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming."

C We adore You, O Lord!

P The LORD says, "I the LORD do not change; therefore you are not consumed."

C We praise You, O Lord!

P The LORD who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C We worship You, O Lord!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Two Advent candles on the wreath are lit.

P Let us pray. O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Confession & Absolution

Psalm 25:6-7

P Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed

P We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have neither loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.

C Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

P Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

C according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

Verse

"Kyrie for the Four Sundays in Advent" / Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

**Forgive us, Lord, for times when peace was lost,
And moments when we never thought to love,
For times when we oppress and offend
And fight for things that kill us in the end.
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins
And help us be in peace with all our kin.**

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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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit Psalm

Psalm 81:8; 10-11, 13; *antiphon*: Luke 3:4b

P The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."

C **Hear, O My people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to Me!**

P I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

C **But My people did not listen to My voice; Israel would not submit to Me.**

P Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways!

C **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.**

P The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."

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. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1-7b

“Malachi declares the coming of a messenger, which would be fulfilled in John the Baptist”

L The Old Testament Reading for the Second Sunday in Advent is from Malachi, chapter three.

¹ “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

⁶ “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷ From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Philippians 1:2-11

“Paul encourages that the Church be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.”

L The Epistle Reading is from Philippians, chapter one.

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,

⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Luke 3:4b, 6

P Alleluia!

C **Alleluia!**

P Prepare the way of the Lord,

C **make His paths straight;**

P all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

C **Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-20

“John the Baptist urges everyone to repent, and he points to Jesus.”

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹ And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

8:00 Service

The Nicene Creed

C 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.

10:30 Service

The Apostles Creed

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

And 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 shall come to judge the living and the dead.

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. Amen.

Message for Children from God's Word

Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book #344

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

1. On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.
3. We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away Like flow’rs that wither and decay.
4. Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev’ry place.
- Δ 5. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.

Sermon

Offering

“Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.” – Luke 3:8

We encourage you to place your offering in the dropbox in the narthex before service. When 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 ...let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

The prayers conclude:

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

C **Amen.**

(10:30 a.m. Service on page 17 of the Worship Folder.)

Sanctus *"Holy, Holy, Holy"*

Lutheran Service Book p. 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord

Lutheran Service Book p. 209

Pax Domini *"The Peace of Our Lord"*

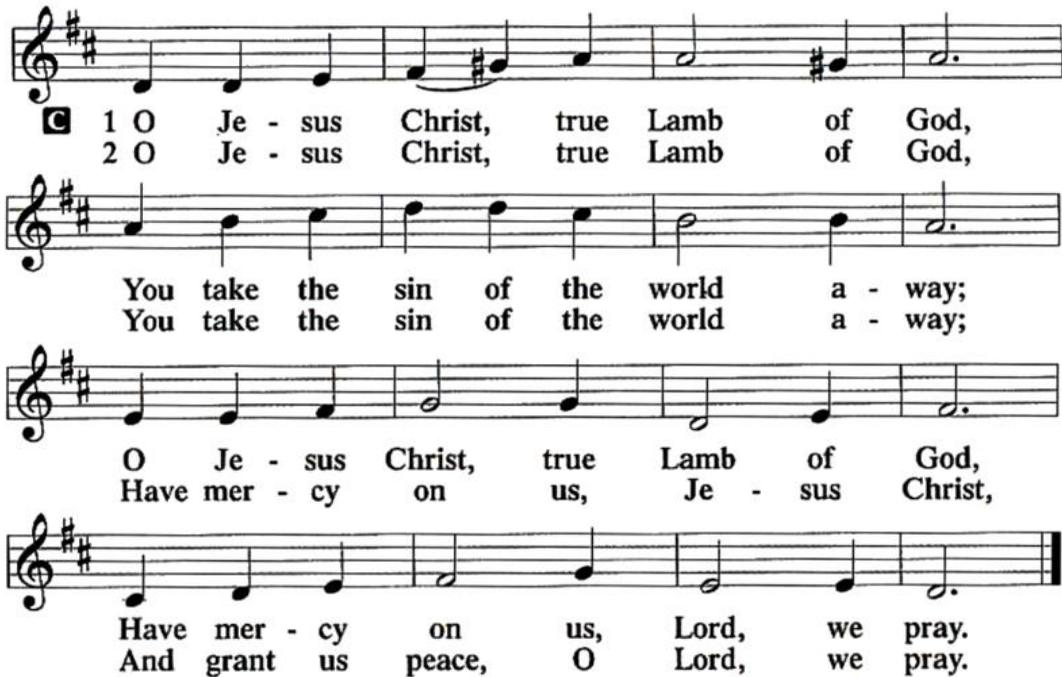
Lutheran Service Book p. 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *"Lamb of God"*

Lutheran Service Book p. 210



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #347

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

1. "Comfort, comfort ye My people, Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
"Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover And her warfare now is over."
2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness Into ever-springing gladness.

3. Hark, the herald's voice is crying In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4. Make ye straight what long was crooked; Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That His Word is never broken.

Distribution Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #345
"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

1. Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness, All your children of the day!"

2. Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.

3. See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv'n.

4. So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy And with words of love draw near.

Δ 5. Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

Nunc Dimittis "Song of Simeon"

Lutheran Service Book p. 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Thanksgiving & Prayer

P O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good.

C For His steadfast love endures forever! *Psalms 106:1*

P Let us pray. You, O God, spoke into the vast silence at creation, and the universe was born. Your voice of power and mercy both condemned the sin of Adam and Eve and promised them a Savior. Your voice of power and mercy was spoken through the prophets, exposing the emptiness of those who turned from You, while at the same time inviting those with ears to hear to repent. Your voice of power and mercy rang out in the wilderness from the lips of John the Baptist, calling us again to repentance. Your voice of power and mercy became flesh in Jesus, whose words challenged the proud and lifted the lowly. By Your voice of power and mercy, Jesus took upon Himself all this world's sin and evil, to suffer and die, and then, in fulfillment of the ancient promise, to rise from the grave. We give You thanks, praise, and worship for Your voice of power and mercy to us, that we may now live in Your kingdom and forever worship and adore You. 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.

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.

Announcements

Closing Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #333
"Once He Came in Blessing"

1. Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

2. Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.

3. Soon will come that hour__ When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.

4. Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

This concludes the 8:00 a.m. Service

XX

10:30 a.m. Service

Lord's Prayer

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 Closing Prayer

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*Want to write some notes down?
This page is free for you.*