



WAIT UPON  
THE LORD

— with —

*Hope*

*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 8, 2021

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

### Today in Worship

- Theme Verse for today: “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.” (Psalm 130:5)
- God’s Grace to you as you come to the Lord’s house for worship this day.

### Ringing 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 Isaiah said.
- C** Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.
- P** They shall mount up with wings like eagles.
- C** They shall run and not be weary.
- P** They shall walk and not faint. Wait upon the Lord.
- C** Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

# The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**P** On this second week of Advent we light a candle and call it Love.  
This is love.

**C** **Not that we loved God,**

**P** But that He loved us.

**C** **We call this candle Love because God showed His love among us**

**P** And sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**C** **Let us love one another, for love comes from God!**

*The first two Advent candles are lit as the hymn is begun.*

## Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #349

“Hark the Glad Sound”

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne And ev’ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris’ners to release, In Satan’s bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding Soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

## 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 Isaiah the prophet; 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 #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!

## Readings from Holy Scripture

Isaiah 40:27-31

**L** A reading from Isaiah, chapter 40.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint,  
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
and young men shall fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Readings from Holy Scripture

Romans 8:22-25

**P** A reading from Romans, chapter eight.

<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Handbell Anthem

“Savior of the Nations Come” arr. Douglas E. Wagner

## Readings from Holy Scripture

John 1:1-5

**L** A reading from the Gospel of John, chapter one.

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn of the Day

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.

## Sermon

### Canticle

Lutheran Service Book #934, verses 3-4  
"My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord"

3. His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scatters those of proud intent  
And casts them down from high estate, Then gives the low His nourishment.

4. He feeds the hungry as His own; The wealthy leave with empty hands.  
He gives His help to Israel; His gracious promise always stands.

### 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 #338

“Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus”

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2. Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.



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

*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*

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