



Grace



630 N. Monroe St.
Monroe, MI 48162
(734) 242-1401
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 **10:30a.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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 12, 2021

Today in Worship

- Some Advent wreaths have a pink candle for this Third Sunday in Advent. The festive, joyful pink candle reflects today’s Readings, which begin to anticipate the unbridled joy that Jesus’ birth brings. We do many joyful things during Advent. We sing Christmas carols, bake cookies, decorate our homes inside and out, and travel far and wide to visit those we love. Yet all these joyful things point to an even greater joy—the joy that comes by the Creator of the universe, the Lord almighty, who loves you, forgives you in Jesus, and cares about you beyond human measure! “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”
- 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 #348

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

1. The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes.
2. Not as of old a little child, To bear and fight and die
But crowned with glory like the sun That lights the morning sky.

3. Oh, brighter than the rising morn When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lone-some place of death Despite the rage of foes.

4. Oh, brighter than that glorious morn Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes And we shall see His face.

5. The King shall come when morning dawns And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly, King of kings!

Invocation & Opening Sentences

Zephaniah 3:14a, 15b; 16b-17, 20

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

C Amen.

P Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.

C **The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.**

P “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

C **The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;**

P He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;

C **He will exult over you with loud singing.**

P I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

C **We worship You, O Lord!**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Three 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 joy was lost,
And moments when we never thought to laugh,
For times when we obsess and despair
And all forget Your steadfast love and care.
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins
And help us live in joy that never ends.**

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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 146:5-8; *antiphon*: Philippians 4:4

- P** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

C Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

P who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

C **who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.**

P The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

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 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

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. You, Lord Jesus, caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the possessed to be free, the dead to be raised. By Your death and resurrection, You promise to raise us to new life. You are the One who alone can answer all our wonderings. You alone are the Way to abundant life. Fill us with the joy that comes from You alone that our lives may radiate Your joy in this broken world; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

“God will gather His scattered people and restore them to Him.”

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

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

10:30am Service

Choir Anthem

“Come Thou Long-expected Jesus”

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

“The Lord invites us to bring our worries to Him in prayer..”

L The Epistle Reading is from Philippians, chapter four.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness[a] be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Matthew 11:10b

P Alleluia!

C **Alleluia!**

P Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,

C **who will prepare Your way before You.**

P Alleluia!

C **Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18-28

“The lame walk, the blind see, and the poor have good news spoken to them.”

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7th chapter.

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

¹⁸ The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²² And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴ When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?" ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you."

²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

8:00 Service

The Apostles Creed

10:30 Service

The Nicene Creed

Message for Children from God's Word

Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book #335

"O Bride of Christ, Rejoice"

1. O bride of Christ, rejoice; Exultant raise thy voice
To hail the day of glory Foretold in sacred story.
Hosanna, praise, and glory! Our King, we bow before Thee.
2. Let shouts of gladness rise Triumphant to the skies.
Now comes the King most glorious To reign o'er all victorious.
Hosanna, praise, and glory! Our King, we bow before Thee.
3. A humble beast He rides, Yet as a King presides;
Though not arrayed in splendor, He makes the grave surrender.
Hosanna, praise, and glory! Our King, we bow before Thee.

4. The weak and timid find How meek He is and kind;
To them He gives a treasure Of bliss beyond all measure.
Hosanna, praise, and glory! Our King, we bow before Thee.

5. Then go thy Lord to meet; Strew palm leaves at His feet;
Thy garments spread before Him And honor and adore Him.
Hosanna, praise, and glory! Our King, we bow before Thee.

Sermon

Offering

“The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.” – Psalm 126:3

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 11 of the Worship Folder.)

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8:00 a.m. Service

Lord’s Prayer

Thanksgiving & Prayer

P Thank You, Lord of all creation, for bringing joy into this heartbroken world.
For the joy of creation, the beauty that points us to You as the Creator of all,

C **we thank You, Lord.**

P For the joy of Your promise to Adam and Eve to send a Savior,

C **we thank You, Lord.**

P For the joy of saving Noah and his family in the flood, and likewise saving us through the flood of Holy Baptism,

C **we thank You, Lord.**

P For the joy of Your sending prophets to people who had again rebelled against You,

C **we thank You, Lord.**

P For the joy of Jesus, Your Son, who proclaimed, taught, and demonstrated the coming Kingdom, and who suffered, died, rose, and ascended,

C **we thank You. We praise You. We adore You. 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 #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.

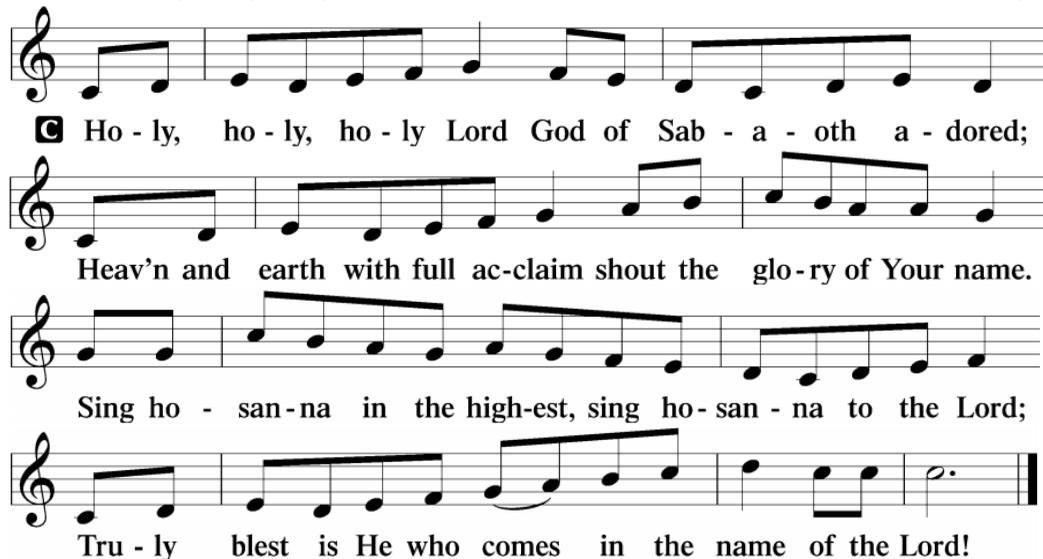
3. He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding Soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

This concludes the 8:00 a.m. Service

Sanctus *"Holy, Holy, Holy"*

Lutheran Service Book p. 208



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



C 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 to 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 -

Closing Hymn

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And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.
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