



WAIT UPON  
THE LORD

— with —

*Rejoicing*

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 15, 2021

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

### Today in Worship

- Theme Verse for today: *“This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”* (Isaiah 25:9)
- 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 Elizabeth did.
- C** She waited for a child.
- P** John the Baptist.
- C** Then she said to Mary:
- P** When the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.
- C** Wait upon the Lord.
- P** Be strong and courageous.

**C** Wait upon the Lord!

## The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**P** On this third week of Advent we light a candle and call it Joy.

Be glad in the LORD,

**C** and rejoice, O righteous,

**P** and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! (*Ps. 32:11*)

**C** We call this candle Joy because God has restored to us the joy of our salvation.

**P** Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

**C** For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. (*Ps. 95:2-3*)

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

## Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #367  
"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

1. Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.
  2. Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light.  
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.
  3. Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.
  4. Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear.  
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.
- △ 5. All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

## 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 Mary and Elizabeth; 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 #357, vv. 1-3  
"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!
3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

## Readings from Holy Scripture

1 Samuel 2:1-3

**L** A reading from First Samuel, chapter two.

<sup>1</sup> And Hannah prayed and said,

"My heart exults in the Lord;  
my horn is exalted in the Lord.

My mouth derides my enemies,  
because I rejoice in your salvation.

<sup>2</sup> "There is none holy like the Lord:  
for there is none besides you;  
there is no rock like our God.

<sup>3</sup> Talk no more so very proudly,  
let not arrogance come from your mouth;  
for the Lord is a God of knowledge,  
and by him actions are weighed.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Readings from Holy Scripture

Romans 12:11-18

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

<sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Choir Anthem

“Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus”

## Readings from Holy Scripture

Luke 1:39-56

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

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

<sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

- and holy is his name.
- <sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.
- <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
- <sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;
- <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.
- <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,
- <sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”
- <sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book #357, vv. 4-7

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

4. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree, Free them from Satan’s tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save, And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!
5. O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav’nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!
6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death’s dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!
7. O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

# Sermon

## Canticle

Lutheran Service Book #934, vv. 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 #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.



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

*Wednesday, December 15*

*Wednesday, December 22*

**Christmas Eve Worship Services**

*Friday, December 24, 2021*

*4:00 pm & 7:00 p.m.*

**Christmas Day Worship Services**

*Saturday, December 25, 2021*

*10:00 a.m.*

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