



WAIT UPON  
THE LORD

with

*Gratitude*



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 22, 2021

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

### Today in Worship

- Theme Verse for today: *“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.”* (Psalm 9:1)
- 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 Zechariah did. Then he gave thanks, saying--
- C** Blessed be the Lord God of Israel.
- P** For He has visited and redeemed His people.
- C** To guide our feet into the way of peace.
- P** Wait upon the Lord.
- C** Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

# The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**P** On this fourth 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!**

*All four Advent candles are lit as the hymn is begun.*

## 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!

## 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 Zechariah the priest; 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 #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.

## Readings from Holy Scripture

Isaiah 51:2-4

**L** A reading from Isaiah, chapter 51.

<sup>2</sup> Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;  
for he was but one when I called him,  
that I might bless him and multiply him.

<sup>3</sup> For the Lord comforts Zion;  
he comforts all her waste places  
and makes her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the Lord;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup> "Give attention to me, my people,  
and give ear to me, my nation;  
for a law will go out from me,  
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

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

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

## Readings from Holy Scripture

1 Thessalonians 5:17-19

**P** A reading from First Thessalonians, chapter five.

<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Handbell Anthem

“Lo How A Rose E’er Blooming” arr. Douglas E. Wagner

## Readings from Holy Scripture

Luke 1:67-79

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

<sup>67</sup> And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

<sup>68</sup> “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has visited and redeemed his people

<sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us

in the house of his servant David,

<sup>70</sup> as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

<sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us;

<sup>72</sup> to show the mercy promised to our fathers

and to remember his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

<sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,

might serve him without fear,

<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

<sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people

in the forgiveness of their sins,

<sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God,

whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book #350

“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

1. Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.
2. Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!
3. My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee;  
Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee,  
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.
4. Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!  
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,  
That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

## Sermon

## Canticle

Lutheran Service Book #934, vv. 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.**

## 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 #358, vv. 1-5  
"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

1. From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:
2. To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all earth.
3. This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.
4. He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.
5. These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark.  
There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made.



**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.*